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Japan

Tokyo Recognizes 10 Former Soviet Republics

OW2812070891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0643 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Japan has recognized independence of 10 of the 12 republics of the former Soviet Union, government officials said.

Officials said the 10 republics are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

The Japanese Government has already extended diplomatic recognition to Russia as the successor to the Soviet Union.

Russia and the other 10 republics have agreed to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The Russian Federation is the leading member of the 11-nation grouping that replaced the Soviet Union.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told Saturday's extraordinary cabinet meeting that the Japanese Government will ask the 10 republics to confirm that they will discharge their duties under international law, including strict control of nuclear arms, transition to a market economy and repayments of external debt.

Japan will establish diplomatic relations with the 10 republics, officials quoted Watanabe as saying.

Japan has yet to recognize the strife-torn Georgia.

Private Talks Begin Over Commonwealth Food Aid

OW3012011091 Tokyo KYODO in English 2355 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Private Japanese-Russian preparatory talks have started in Moscow on future food sales to the Commonwealth of Independent States to be covered by the Japanese Government's emergency food assistance, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported Monday.

Prodintorg, a Moscow-based food trader created by privatizing the Food Export and Import Corp. of the former Soviet Union, recently presented a list of food items for buying from Japan, on behalf of the member republics of the new Commonwealth, the economic daily said.

In response, a group of more than 10 Japanese firms, including trading houses and food companies, has begun preparatory trading talks with the Moscow company.

The deal, estimated to exceed 10 billion yen, is to be covered by the 100 million dollar emergency food aid the Japanese Government earlier pledged to the former Soviet Union.

The private-sector talks are aimed at enabling quick shipment of food items immediately after the signing of governmental documents on the aid and related loan contracts between the two sides' banks, the daily said.

Revisions to Dunkel Draft Proposal Considered

OW2912131991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 29 Dec 91

[From the evening newscast]

[Text] A new proposal for breaking the deadlock in the rice market opening issue is surfacing in the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. The proposal calls for giving consideration to the rate of self-sufficiency for food in determining import quotas, after excluding from tariffication import-restricted items of nations, including rice.

The draft final Uruguay Round agreement, proposed by GATT Director General Dunkel, calls for unexceptional tariffication with the aim of reducing import restrictions on farm produce by replacing them with tariffs.

In this connection the government intends to seek revisions to the draft agreement even after 13 January, when the talks are scheduled to resume, on the grounds that tariffication without exceptions will be directly linked to the complete opening of the rice market.

However, the view that is gaining force is that it will be difficult to break the deadlock by only continuing to reject tariffication at a time when tariffication has become the general trend of the times. Voices have emanated from some quarters in the government and the LDP which insist that Japan, at this juncture, should clearly indicate the scope of concessions it can make in the form of a counterproposal and seek understanding.

The proposal for breaking the deadlock calls for making common rules for limiting imports of items, which are subject to import restrictions due to peculiar circumstances of nations—like rice in Japan, peanuts in the United States, and other waiver items—to certain quantities as exceptions to tariffication. It also calls for determining import quotas for items to be excluded from tariffication by giving consideration to the rate of self-sufficiency for food of each nation. Regarding rice, it proposes that imports be curbed at some percentage for the time being on condition that imports are increased when Japan's rate of self-sufficiency for food improves in the future.

It is believed that behind the emergence of this proposal is the aim of obtaining understanding, timed to coincide with moves in the U.S. Congress against tariffication of waiver items.

On the other hand, some other quarters hold the view that, at a time when the future of the Uruguay Round negotiations on the whole has become unpredictable, it will be ill-advised for Japan to take the lead and promise concessions. Hence, the proposal will likely be further adjusted within the government and the LDP.

Former LDP Official Ozawa on Summit With U.S.

OW2812092191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, on Saturday urged the government to cooperate as much as possible to solve pending economic issues between Japan and the United States.

Ozawa made the appeal in a videotaped TV program on the visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush on January 7-10.

He described the summit between Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa as a very important session in the history of Japan-U.S. relations and said Japan should yield as much as possible to U.S. demands on economic issues, including automobile and auto parts trade.

He said Japan has benefited greatly from free trade for which Bush is fighting.

Ozawa repeated his call for Japan to open its rice market.

"I'm not saying Japan should open its rice market immediately. Japan should recognize in principle the liberalization of farm trade. I am concerned that Japan will be forced to gradually retreat, not only in rice but other farm issues," he said.

Toyota's Support for GM Car Sales Welcomed

OW2812040891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Saturday welcomed a plan by Toyota Motor Corp. to help sales of General Motors Corp.'s cars in Japan.

Earlier in the day the Japanese automaker said it will support the marketing of GM cars by Yanase and Co., a major Japanese dealer of imported cars.

An official at the ministry hailed Toyota's move, saying, "we have been seeking wisdom from Japanese automakers for expanded sale of U.S. cars in Japan."

Autos and auto parts are expected to become the largest economic issue at a meeting between Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush, who is scheduled to arrive in Japan on January 7.

The ministry is pressing the Japanese auto industry to further boost procurement of U.S. auto parts but Japanese companies are reluctant to go beyond plans worked out in November.

The plans set by major Japanese automakers call for spending 16.3 billion dollars to import U.S. auto parts or to locally procure parts for their U.S. plants in fiscal 1994, a figure that is double the fiscal 1990 level.

Subsidizing Imported Foreign Cars Considered

OW3012005091 Tokyo KYODO in English 2352 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—The government is considering subsidizing imports of foreign passenger cars in the hopes of expanding imports of such cars, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported Monday.

According to a government source, Tokyo is looking into the possibility of returning to buyers of foreign cars the difference between the temporary consumption tax on cars and the lower consumption tax on other items, the major daily said.

The temporary automobile consumption tax will be lowered to 4.5 percent in fiscal 1992 from the current 6.0 percent, leaving the rate 1.5 percentage points higher than the general consumption tax of 3 percent.

The rebates are aimed at heading off criticism by European and U.S. automakers regarding the temporary consumption tax and beefing up foreign car sales in Japan, the MAINICHI said.

Tokyo is considering presenting a concrete plan, to go into effect in fiscal 1993, to U.S. President George Bush when he arrives in Tokyo early next month.

But debate within the government on details of the plan will continue as concerns that a rebate for all foreign car buyers would only benefit buyers of European cars, which are popular in Japan, it said.

Computer-Controlled Tool Export Curbs Extended

OW2812055091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0529 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Saturday Japan will accept a U.S. request for two-year extension of an agreement on Japan's voluntary restraints on shipments of computer-controlled machine tools to the United States.

The voluntary restraint agreement, in force since 1987, is scheduled to expire Tuesday.

A MITI official said Japan will also accept a U.S. petition to extend the present agreement for 30 days for negotiations with Japan to work out details of the phasing out of the restraints on computer-controlled items over the proposed two-year period.

"The U.S. move is apparently in a direction toward eventual liberalization of machine tool trade," the official said.

Restraints on machine tools that are not controlled by computers will expire as scheduled on Tuesday, however.

Taiwan, which also is exercising similar restraints, is said to be reluctant about the two-year extension proposal.

Tomotaka Unno, head of the Japan Machine Tool Builders' Association, indicated the industry will do what it can.

He also said the voluntary restrictions on machine tool exports to the U.S. will not be extended further after a lapse of two years, as the U.S. is beginning to realize that this kind of arrangement would have only the temporary effects of a painkiller.

Ministry Booklet Refutes Criticism of Keiretsu

OW2812075391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry distributed booklets to foreign firms and news media in Japan on Saturday, refuting criticism of Japan's unique "keiretsu" affiliation of corporations as a barrier to the Japanese market, officials said.

The officials said the document, titled "The Role of Keiretsu in Business," was distributed to member firms of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and U.S. news media.

The pamphlet contended that keiretsu is by no means an obstacle to foreign access to the Japanese market but that the practice is worthy of study by foreign enterprises, the officials said.

The four-page booklet argued that procurement by Japanese companies is conducted in a fair and open manner based on sound economic values—including price, quality, and timely delivery.

It said keiretsu refers to business groupings and that transactions with companies belonging to the same keiretsu account for only about 10 percent of total transactions.

The Foreign Ministry distributed the booklet ahead of a four-day official visit to Japan by U.S. President George Bush on January 7-10 which will focus on how Japan can open its market wider.

SSC Issue Highlights Lack of Research Funding

OW2812005391 Tokyo KYODO in English 2316 GMT 27 Dec 91

(By Waka Hamada)

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—When Tetsuya Kato drinks "One-Cup Ozeki," a brand of sake sold in a disposable glass cup, he finds himself confronting a sobering fact—he cannot bring himself to throw the cup away.

The science instructor at prestigious Kyoto University makes a point of using such empty cups as beakers in his laboratory.

"I will use what I can. The money available is limited, so I want to use it where it is most needed," he says.

In a land whose economic power is renowned, Kato's frugality might beggar belief but it is symptomatic of the reality facing many Japanese university scientists—lack of research funds.

Average Japanese scientists at national universities must struggle to bridge the gap between the 2.5 million yen they need every year to pursue their research and the mere 1 million yen in funding they can get from the government and other sources.

Tight finances force most university scientists to pay their own travel and other expenses, according to a survey published earlier this year by the Association of National Universities.

It is natural, therefore, that many Japanese scholars are angered by the latest Japan-U.S. dispute over a multibillion dollar atom-smasher now under construction in Texas.

Succumbing to U.S. pressure, the government is now likely to provide sizable contributions to the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) project to please U.S. President George Bush who will visit Japan in early January.

"I don't think the SSC project is not worth conducting. But I want the government to pay more heed to the poor state of domestic research," Kato said.

Kato is not the only person demurring at possible involvement in the 8.2 billion dollar high-energy project, aimed at probing the origins of matter.

The British scientific weekly NATURE argued in a recent issue that Japan should boycott U.S. requests to help construct the SSC.

"What is being offered to Japan is not, in reality, collaboration, but an opportunity to contribute to a machine already fully designed and whose components are mostly fully developed," it said in an editorial titled "poor rich Japan."

In November, the Science Council of Japan asked Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to put priority on domestic research, arguing that a real international contribution in science is possible only after Japan has restored its declining domestic research.

"While prices of high-tech machines are on a steady rise, our budget remains flat. We are very much poorer than foreign universities," said Sadao Nakajima, a council member and professor at Tokai University. "It's no wonder that few graduate students want to stay at university."

According to studies by the governmental National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, Japan's research and development (r and d) expenditures totaled 11.8 trillion yen in 1989, the second largest among industrial nations, but only 18 percent of this goes to universities.

The government's austere budget outlays account for only 19 percent of total r and d funding, while the industrial sector provides more than 70 percent, most of which is funneled into research relevant to particular industries.

Critics can also be found within the government.

"I cannot understand why giving money for the SSC will translate into international contributions," said a high-ranking official of the Science and Technology Agency.

"It is our people that will bear the burden for financing the SSC. So the government must explain what the project is and will really mean to domestic science," he said.

Orlando Camargo, a research associate with the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, said contributions should not necessarily be limited to money.

"If the U.S. or any other country wants Japan's contributions in science to increase, the best way to do that is to make Japanese universities stronger," he said. "And I think we should be contributing people as much as money."

S.S. Yamamoto, a professor at the University of Tokyo's Department of Physics, said, "the problem with the SSC is that all decisions have been made by politicians, not scientists, and this, I think, will cast a shadow over the future of Japanese science."

"Personally, I welcome the SSC project, though it is a big gamble which may produce few scientific gains despite the enormous costs involved," he said.

However, he added, the Japanese Government should make its deal with the U.S. crystal clear so it will not have to pay extra money if the actual cost exceeds the original estimate.

Yamamoto also agreed with Camargo that personnel contributions are as important as money.

"The Japanese Government has been more willing to pay for machines and facilities than for people," he said.

"Once it decides to join the SSC, the government is responsible for creating an environment where participating Japanese scientists will not be bothered by worries about money and can fully commit themselves to the project," he said.

Human Rights Policy Said Mostly Rhetoric

OW3012004891 Tokyo KYODO in English 2326 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Japan, better known for pragmatism than ideology in its diplomacy, is increasingly adopting firm rhetoric on human rights as it joins western partners in encouraging the post-cold war trends toward democracy and free markets.

But it remains to be seen whether Japan truly intends to exercise its budding political clout and immense economic leverage to promote human rights in Asia and beyond, or whether it is merely paying lip service to the concept to placate its more moralistic western partners.

Last April, then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the Diet that henceforth, in implementing Japan's massive aid program, Tokyo would fully take into acount recipient countries' efforts at democratization and guarantees of fundamental human rights.

Foreign Ministry officials, however, are hard put to cite specific examples of the new policy in action, with the possible exception of a cutoff of aid to Haiti last September and aid suspensions to such countries as China and Myanmar [Burma] that predated the new policy.

On the other hand, while still as reluctant as ever to resort to punitive measures, Tokyo has been quietly pressing the issue of human rights in bilateral talks, most recently with Myanmar and Indonesia.

According to one human rights activist, Kiyoko Furusawa, Japan's response to an anticipated Indonesian Government report on the shooting of civilians in East Timor will be a litmus test of Japan's sincerity on human rights.

"The government should not practice a double standard on human rights when it comes to abuses or violations occurring in nations with which Japan has been keeping very close relations, like China and Indonesia," said Furusawa, a lecturer at Tokyo Women's Christian University.

Furusawa said Japan's actions after assuming a nonpermanent seat on the U.N. Security Council will also show how serious Tokyo is about human rights.

But Japanese bureaucrats and politicians generally shun the idea of taking up the human rights torch with anything like the missionary zeal of many western nations, some arguing that the very concept of human rights is alien to Asian culture.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who argued in Tokyo last November for Japan to dispense with passive diplomacy and actively promote "the democratic and humanitarian agenda," got a feel for the split in opinion in Japan at an informal dinner meeting with a number of senior political leaders, including Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, and former Prime Ministers Noboru Takeshita and Yasuhiro Nakasone.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, some Japanese participants shared Baker's enthusiasm, saying Japan undertakes to convey the importance of human rights to other Asian countries.

Others, however, chided the U.S. for pressing a moralistic diplomacy in Asia and for ignoring what they said was the paramount importance of economic development as the foundation to ensure respect for human rights.

Japan's new emphasis on human rights comes across convincingly on paper, though officials admit it is aimed partly at quelling accusations that Japan's diplomacy is "faceless" or that it lacks a guiding philosophy.

The Foreign Ministry's new annual report, for example, says Japan will henceforth "take actions" to promote "universal values" like human rights, utilizing aid as a leverage when necessary.

And Japan's deputy permanent U.N. representative, Katsumi Sezaki, recently said in a speech that national sovereignty cannot be accepted as "a protective barrier behind which a country may violate human rights with impunity."

"There are certain fundamental freedoms and human rights that should be respected by all countries, whatever their culture, whatever their political or economic system," Sezaki said, alluding to the common argument of developing countries that social and economic development takes priority.

The threat of aid as a diplomatic club would be expected to be received coolly by such major Japanese aid beneficiaries as China and Indonesia, both under harsh Western criticism for their human rights records.

Voicing the sentiments of many in the region, Malaysian Prime Mohamed Mahathir recently slammed "preachers of democracy" who "latch onto various causes such as human rights and the environment in order to reimpose colonial rule on us."

In practice, however, countries so near and economically important to Japan appear to have little cause for alarm from Tokyo's newly idealistic foreign policy—which, according to veteran diplomat Takakazu Kuriyama ,"also has to be realistic."

The former vice foreign minister urged a "low-posture policy" that "does not give the impression we are imposing our values on other countries." Activism would antagonize Asian neighbors who remember "Japan's past belligerence and aggression," he said.

"There has to be a great deal of sophistication and delicacy when trying to promote values to which those countries do not necessarily subscribe," Kuriyama said.

Cabinet Approves FY 1992 Budget 28 Dec

OW2812070391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0640 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Saturday approved a draft budget for fiscal 1992 designed to provide a kick to the slow domestic economy and to put up a good international front in the face of a revenue squeeze.

The budget plan, endorsed at a special cabinet meeting Saturday afternoon, is up a scant 2.7 percent from the initial budget for fiscal 1991 to total 72,218.0 billion yen.

It is notable for a generous increase in Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), in sharp contrast to a skimpy rise in defense spending.

The government's spending plan also includes sizable growth in public works spending aimed at propping up the sagging economy.

Many economists in the private sector, however, view the budget as a run-of-the-mill spending blueprint that betrays Miyazawa's reputation as an old fiscal hand who favors a Keynesian approach—economist John Maynard Keynes' theory of government manipulation of spending and taxation to offset recession or inflation.

"I don't see any 'Miyazawa color' in the budget," said Takashi Kiuchi, general manager and chief economist at the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

The budget plan will be submitted to the Diet next month for parliamentary approval.

Reflecting fiscal restraint due to falling tax revenue, the general account component of the budget was allowed its smallest increase in five years.

But general operating expenditures, which comprise the core of the budget covering social security, education, defense, public works and other public costs, are up 4.5 percent to 38,698.8 billion yen.

The 4.5 percent year-on-year hike is down from a 4.7 percent climb in the fiscal 1991 initial budget, but is still the second highest increase in 12 years.

The budget is tightfisted on defense spending, reflecting the rapidly receding threat to national security because of the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold war confrontation between the Soviets and the United States.

The defense budget was granted a 3.78 percent increase, the smallest growth in 32 years.

The appropriation, which fell far short of the Defense Agency's request for a 5.38 percent hike, means the defense budget in fiscal 1992 totals 4,551.8 billion yen, or 0.941 percent of the gross national product.

That moderate rise, however, is still too much for some economists.

"I don't see why the defense spending should ever increase, even if by a modest margin, under the current conditions concerning national security," said Yukio Yanbe, general manager and chief economist at Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank [DKB].

The budget shows the government is loath to give new ammunition to critics of its stance on international contributions.

The ODA outlay is up a robust 7.8 percent to 952.2 billion yen.

The rise in ODA spending came after a year of politically charged national debate over Japan's international role, triggered by the former cabinet's awkward handling of Japan's contributions to the allied forces in the Persian Gulf war.

Miyazawa compounded the sense of fiasco when he recently failed to get through the Diet a bill allowing the Self-Defense Forces to join overseas United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Rubbing salt into Miyazawa's fresh political wound was a foiled attempt to increase taxes to fund international contributions.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, in seeking support for the tax scheme, emphasized that Japan can ill afford to reduce international contributions however severe the fiscal outlook.

Another important objective of the fiscal 1992 budget is to stimulate the weak economy.

Signs are rife of a further slowdown of the economy in fiscal 1992, making many economists skeptical about the government's projection of a 3.5 percent real growth of the economy in the year.

With an eye to enhancing domestic demand, the government has decided to increase public works spending in the general account by 4.5 percent to 8,170.9 billion yen.

But the bulk of the fiscal stimulus will come from the fiscal investment and loans program, often called "the second budget," which will expand by 10.9 percent to 40,802.2 billion yen.

The fiscal investment and loans program, which is mainly used for public works projects, is financed by nontax financial sources such as postal savings and is not included in the general account.

To meet the need to boost the economy even as tax revenues fall, the government has decided to issue 7,280.0 billion yen in construction bonds to finance public works, up 36.3 percent and the largest-ever issue of bonds for public works.

Bonds will account for 10.1 percent of the total revenue in fiscal 1992, up from 7.6 percent in the fiscal 1991 initial budget.

Debt-servicing costs will total 16,447.3 billion yen, up 2.6 percent, eating up 22.8 percent of the budget.

The bonds outstanding will reach some 174 trillion yen at the end of fiscal 1992, or about 36 percent of the gross national product.

The government expects tax revenues to grow a puny 1.2 percent to 62,504.0 billion yen in fiscal 1992, even with the proposed 737 billion yen tax hike.

In addition to the tax increases, the government is cutting tax grants to local governments by 1.3 percent to 15,771.9 billion yen, saying many of them are in good fiscal condition.

Some economists take a dim view of the government approach to the fiscal problems.

"All the efforts were poured into just balancing the budget," said DKB's Yanbe.

"The budget demonstrates no clear fiscal tenet of the Miyazawa administration, nor its vision for future course of the Japanese economy."

The spending plan does not offer any sign of Miyazawa action programs in the face of rapid change in the world political and economic landscape and the burst of the bubble in the Japanese economy, Yanbe said.

"I think the government should have slashed the defense spending more deeply, and reconsidered the contents of public works before increasing taxes or bond issues," he said.

"There are a heap of public works projects that are questionable in their effectiveness in upgrading the quality of people's lives."

Shoji Saito, director and general manager at Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank's research division, stressed the need for a more flexible system for issuing government bonds.

"The top priority in fiscal policy should be placed on securing stable growth of government spending despite the economic fluctuation," Saito said.

"That means fiscal policy should serve as a built-in stabilizer for the nation's economy.

"For that purpose, a tax hike is in principle undesirable, so the government should have larger leeway in issuing bonds as the U.S. Government has to finance deficits."

"The deficits can be paid back as the economy picks up and tax revenues increase again," he said.

The Long-Term Credit Bank's Kiuchi said, "The budget is mediocre and bland. It has no definite stamp of Miyazawa's philosophy."

"Miyazawa failed to measure up to the expectations again," he said.

Miyazawa Says Budget To Boost World Economy

OW2812114791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Saturday that a draft budget for fiscal 1992 will play a "locomotive" role in boosting the world economy.

Miyazawa made the remark in an extraordinary cabinet meeting in which the government approved the 72.218 trillion yen budget for fiscal 1992 starting April 1, government officials said.

The prime minister was quoted as saying the boosting of the world economy will be among topics discussed when U.S. President George Bush visits Japan in early January and that the proposed budget will meet Bush's requests.

He said the government fully responded to domestic and foreign requests for measures to stimulate the economy by the largest-ever issue of bonds for public works.

Meanwhile, major opposition parties called for further reductions in defense spending.

Social Democratic Party (SDP) policy board chairman Masaru Hayakawa said the government gave priority to the military buildup over improvement of social security.

"The prime minister advocated the necessity of disarmament but the government has not changed its Cold war attitude," he said.

The defense budget for fiscal 1992 totals 4,551.8 billion yen, an increase of 3.78 percent, the smallest growth in 32 years.

Parties Discuss Tariffication, PKO Bill 22 Dec

OW2312130191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Panel discussion, entitled "Diet Session Closes; Ways To Address Outstanding Issues," at the NHK studio in Tokyo—live; participants include Tamisuke Watanuki, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party; Sadao Yamahana, general secretary of the Social Democratic Party of Japan; Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito; Kazuo Shii, secretriat chief of the Japan Communist Party; Takashi Yonezawa, secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party; and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato—moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto]

[Excerpts] [Yamamoto] The 122d extraordinary Diet session, the first Diet session for the Miyazawa government, ended its 47-day sitting yesterday. Major issues at the latest session were the handling of the peacekeeping operations [PKO] bill, which is designed for cooperation in the UN PKO, and the summoning of witnesses in connection with Prime Minister Miyazawa's transfer of stocks from the Recruit-Cosmos Company. In the end, however, it was decided at the House of Councillors that the PKO bill would be carried over to the next session and the settlement of the issue of summoning witnesses was put off to a later date. Also, in connection with the handling of these issues, there have been signs of cracks or changes in cooperative relations between the government and the opposition parties.

Today, therefore, we have representatives of political parties and the chief cabinet secretary with us. We want them to look back on the extraordinary session and, at the same time, discuss ways to address the outstanding issues.

As a matter of fact, however, GATT Director General Dunkel yesterday put forward his final draft agreement on the Uruguay Round. So, we also want them to tell us briefly about their basic attiudes toward the issue of opening up the rice marekt as well.

Mr. Chief Cabinet Secretary, as expected, the draft agreement is severe in substance in that it calls for tariffication without exceptions. How will the government deal with it?

[Kato] Although the [draft] agreement on the Uruguay Round addresses agricultural issues only, it is a comprehensive agreement covering all other sectors. The government is currently carefully studying its contents. As regards the agricultural issue, which merits attention, our position that Japan opposes tariffication without exceptions was not accepted fully. I think this is regrettable. However, Director General Dunkel appears to have asked before announcing this proposal that we take an overall view of the proposal without reacting emotionally by taking a quick glance at it. Taking this into account, the government is now closely scrutinizing its contents.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Yamahana, I think that Japan's position will be increasingly tougher. What does the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] think about the proposed agreement?

[Yamahana] As you say, it calls for tariffication without exceptions and, in addition, partial opening. In this sense and in a new sense, I think that it has tougher contents. For one thing, I think it is unfair in terms of procedures as well. In its content, the views of Japan and some 20 other countries, which oppose tariffication without exceptions, were not accepted at all. In case this proposal is accepted, I think that it will lead to the disintegration of Japan's rural community. This, however, is a final draft agreement and I understand that U.S. Trade Representative Hills called it a draft plan this morning. So, I think that the government may make a political decision by 13 January, but we hope that it will stick it out from the posture that it is absolutely unacceptable. On our part, we will do our best with that resolve.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Ichikawa, Komeito has been calling for partial liberalization. Now, what do you think your party should do at this juncture?

[Ichikawa] Unlike other parties our party proposed in June last year a so-called partial liberalization, which is aimed at starting tariffication, instead of calling for all or nothing. The government, however, did not accept it at all. In that sense, therefore, I think we have no choice but to say that it was a failure of the government in its negotiations. Despite the fact that we proposed partial liberalization for starting tariffication, this situation has been created. This is very regrettable. Therefore, voices opposing tariffication are very vocal in the party. On the other hand, however, some members, although they constitute a minority, are asking if it will be all right for Japan to wreck the Uruguay Round and if there is any possibility of holding further negotiations from the viewpoint that Japan benefits from free trade. Accordingly, our party plans to decide on its policy after our Diet members of both houses and local representatives meet on 26 December to make a careful analysis of the Dunkel paper.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Watanuki, Japan-U.S. summit talks will be held next month when President Bush visits Japan. In view of this prospect, I believe that the government needs to make some political decision. What do you think?

[Watanuki] As the chief cabinet secretary just said, we have no detailed knowledge of the Dunkel paper. Regarding the paper, as many as 20 nations around the world are reportedly opposed to it. As for the issue of export subsidies, no agreement has been reached between the United States and the EC. Our ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] has been working vigorously on this crucial issue. The party has sent Mr. Kosuke Hori and Mr. Saicho Okahara to Geneva and they are scheduled to return to Japan this afternoon. We plan to deal with the issue in the future after listening fully to their reports.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Shii of the Japan Communist Party, what do you think?

[Shii] I think that the government should definitely reject the GATT draft agreement. The main issue for now is whether the government can carry through its position of opposing the liberalization of rice imports to the end. Looking at how the government is dealing with the issue, Prime Minister Miyazawa has not definitely indicated in his testimonies at the Diet that he is opposed to the liberalization of rice imports. I think that he takes a very dangerous posture toward the issue. The GATT is not a court. It is a venue where no decision can be made by the majority. But, decisions can be made only after holding debates among the nations concerned. Therefore, the government should attend the talks from a clear-cut position of opposing the liberalization of rice imports. Nearly 20 nations in the world are against the GATT's plans for the tariffication. Like Japan that is trying to protect its rice, the United States is trying to protect its milk and beef. This has been discussed by representatives of agriculture organizations.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Yonezawa, how do you think the government should deal with the issue?

[Yonezawa] Thus far, there is a view that the talks would be settled by the tariffication without exception. When I looked at the Dunkel paper yesterday, I found that this time it mandates imports in addition to the tariffication without exception. The paper mandates the imports of 3% of domestic consumption beginning in 1993 and 5% beginning in 1995. The paper adds the minimum access to markets to the tariffication without exception. In that sense, I think that the paper is tougher than ever. It is true that Japan is a nation that has benefited most from the free trading system. If the government accepts the paper without raising an objection, it would lead to the collapse of Japanese farmhouses. Though Japan needs to cooperate internationally, it cannot destroy its own major industry. I hope that the government will attend the talks with this point in mind.

[Yamamoto] I would like to turn our subject to the extraordinary Diet session. I would like to ask, among other things, how you assess the session. Mr. Watanuki of the LDP, what do you think of the session?

[Watanuki] The 122d Diet session was called on 5 November. The Miyazawa cabinet, which was saddled with many difficult problems, was unprepared for the session. I think that I will explain in detail later. The cabinet tackled the PKO bill shortly after its inauguration. The latest Diet session was extended by 11 days and lasted 47 days. During the session period, the Diet took legislative steps to deal with typhoon-caused disasters—steps vital to the people's livelihood—and passed the supplementary budget. I believe that the Diet session fulfilled the people's expectations to some extent. Regrettably, it failed to pass the PKO bill and the bill will be discussed at the Diet in the future. Hence, Japan cannot be fully prepared for international contributions. I think this is very regrettable. I feel keenly that the Diet must act quickly and flexibly to enable the government to deal with various issues in the world which is undergoing drastic historical changes.

[Yamamoto] What is your view, Mr. Yamahana?

[Yamahana] My general evaluation of the Diet session is completely opposite to what Mr. Yamanuki said just now. He said the session fulfilled the people's expectations, but our appraisal of it in retrospect is that the session was one that completely betrayed the expectations of the people. They have not changed a bit—trying to resort only to the logic of numbers and to ram a bill through. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] What is your evaluation of the session, Mr. Ichikawa?

[Ichikawa] The fact that the deliberation of the PKO bill had to be put off to the next session—though not scrapped—is indeed regrettable. The SDPJ keeps on talking about the bill having been rammed through. The party has only 13 members on the 50-member committee. I think the SDPJ should do some soul-searching on its attitute of belittling the 60-some [number as heard] non-SDPJ members as shown in the violent scene of rushing on to the committee chairman's seat. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] What is your comment, Mr. Shii?

[Shii] I think that the fact that the passage of the PKO bill to enable the SDF troops overseas—a major issue of concern—was stopped is a big victory for the people and for democracy. There have been a total of three similar bills, including the UN peace cooperation bill introduced to the Diet last year, and they all have failed. Why has this happened? The problem lies in their belief that international contributions are equal to and therefore should mean the dispatch of troops overseas, which is tantamount to trampling on the Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Will you give us your view on the matter, Mr. Yonezawa?

[Yonezawa] This Diet session was the first session under the Miyazawa government. Major tasks for the session were to take actions on public servants' pay, disasters from the Mt. Unzen volcano, a supplemental budget as well as other pending issues, including deliberation on the PKO bill and the conclusion of the review of the Recruit case in which the prime minister himself is involved. I think it was an important session. I will not dwell here on how the Miyazawa government came into being. But we expected his cabinet, as a full-fledged cabinet, to be able to respond promptly to various issues and to display strong leadership. To talk about the conclusion first, however, I must say that Mr. Miyazawa was incapable of showing his leadership, as he relied heavily on other people, like government officials, for decisions. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Mr. Chief Cabinet Secretary, you have heard very severe voices of criticism from opposition parties. With the first Diet session under the Miyazawa cabinet concluded now, what are your feelings?

[Kato] To be sure, the PKO bill did not get approved. But the supplemental budget and other bills that have much to do with people's living have been taken care of. Speaking about the PKO bill, there is the question of whether it is really all right for Japan to provide money only in making contributions. On the other hand, there is this Article 9—the peace article—in the Constitution. Hence we have this problem of how to compromise these two questions, and at the recent Diet session we did deal with this problem. We gave frank discussions on the matter together with the people of the nation. The lower house devoted 72 hours, and the upper house about 25 hours to deliberations on the issue. I believe there has even been a degree of accomplishment in that regard. Even though we do feel acutely responsible for the situation that we could not bring the upper house to approve it, I would like to take note of the following two points:

After 72 hours of deliberations on the bill at the committee, when it was the time for passing it, 50 SDPJ members dashed out to the committee chairman's table in a horde. In a country that can charge a majority party with committing autocracy just because it has a larger number of Diet members, can there be democracy? No body can help if an agreement fails to be reached on a bill. But in such a case, a decision has to be made by means of a vote. That is democracy.

The second point is that we will proceed toward having the PKO bill passed at the next ordinary session of the Diet. We have to realize that contributions in money alone are not good enough for Japan.

[Yamamoto] Now, gentlemen, I would like you to talk about the PKO bill. Mr. Watanuki, as someone said earlier, it is felt that the ramming through of the bill at the lower house could have contributed to destroying the cooperative posture of the LDP, Komeito, and DSP and to making the prospect of the bill's getting passed very dim.

[Watanuki] We believe the PKO bill has the basic understanding of both Komeito and the DSP. Mr. Yamahana earlier used the expression—ramming the bill through—but more than 75 hours of time, which can certainly be said to be enough, were devoted to deliberations at the House of Representatives. When it was finally time to put the bill to a vote, the incident of some people trying to block it happened, and they called this incident an act of ramming it through. Our party believes this was not a case of causing violence by forcibly passing a bill. We think it a basic point of democracy that we turn a bill to a vote when due deliberations have been given.

The world situation is rapidly changing. We asked for a Diet action on the bill in view of the need for Japan to make contributions for world peace. To look back on the course of deliberations on the bill, when we thought the Diet should give emphasis to the basic policy surrounding the bill, most of the time was spent discussing assumed situations. I now think that the government should have pushed the bill with more conviction from the perspective of policy.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Yamahana, you have heard the charges that the SDPJ used violence to stop the passage of the bill.

[Yamahana] I am convinced that the people who watched the proceeding can pass correct judgment. Even though Watanuki said there were 75 hours of deliberations, as the deliberations proceeded, there were growing questions about possible infringement on the Constitution. What is worse, the government turned 180 degrees from its position in the previous Diet session, which said Japan could not participate in the peacekeeping forces

[PKF]. Questions were only growing larger. Therefore, although he said that a bill is put to a vote after having debates, if questions further increase as a result of having debates.... [changes thought] Particularly toward the final day of deliberations, a UN document came to light. The government totally did not show English guidelines of more than 350 pages, for example. It is our impression that the government concealed it. The government should have disclosed it to the nation in its entirety and put it to debate at the Diet. While neglecting all this, they called for a vote. Therefore, we had no way of indicating our position on the question other than that. I think it was a way of expressing our intention, and I think that it is the government which should be held responsible for that result. I think that the government is primarily responsible for having forced that sort of deliberation.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Ishikawa, Komeito agreed to taking that vote and was subject to criticism. Looking back upon it now, what do you think was the cause for that development, the confusion?

[Ichikawa] Komeito agreed with the LDP to revise the bill and approve it, but we had neither intended nor agreed to lead to that confused vote. Whereas the SDPJ has no more than 13 members on the committee, it was able to mobilize as many as 60 Dietmen at a signal from the chairman. How was this possible? If the SDPJ goes so far as to say that, why did it not introduce a no-confidence motion against Chairman Hayashi? This is the beaten track for steering the Diet. Another thing is that the party introduced a no-confidence motion against the Defense Agency director general and foreign minister on the grounds that they took part in that forced vote. This is ridiculous. The committee to which the SDPJ refers is the Special Committee on the PKO, and its chairman is responsible for taking the forced vote. Therefore, it was the SDPJ's traditional way to introduce a no-confidence motion against the chairman of that committee. But the party did not introduce a no-confidence motion against the chairman of the special committee. Therefore, we have no choice but to think that there was log-rolling between the LDP and the SDPJ and that the special committee chairman was involved in it. Therefore, if the party had to go that far, it should clearly explain why it did not, could not, rather, introduce a no-confidence motion against the special committee chairman.

[Yamahana] It is possible to introduce a no-confidence motion against the chairman of a standing committee to the plenary session, but it is impossible to do the same against the chairman of a special committee. This is the Diet's rule. The chairman of a special committee is elected from among its members and, therefore, it is possible to discuss no-confidence against him at that committee. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Mr. Chief Cabinet Secretary, various problems have been pointed out. What is your comment?

[Kato] The forced vote at issue is a Diet affair, and it is not good for the government side to comment too much on it. One thing I can say is that, if SDPJ members show up and swarm to the scene where a vote is being taken, I do not think that LDP members will turn up this time. Some call for letting the people see scenes in which only SDPJ members do that and letting them judge which side is right and which side represents a majority decision. The government wants to pay attention to such views. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Why do we not debate this at the next ordinary Diet session? [laughter] Previewing the next ordinary session, there is the draft budget to be deliberated, and the upper house election will also be near at hand. So, I am afraid that it will be very difficult to enact the bill. What do you think?

[Watanukai] The topic has now changed to the ordinary session next year. Reflationary measures, important bills on how to cope with the age of internationalization, the draft budget and other problems will be deliberated at that session. Since it is, of course, impossible to do the job by the LDP alone, we intend to tide over the difficulties through the cooperation of opposition parties.

[Yamamoto] Mr. Ichikawa, Komeito is in favor of the bill, is it not?

[Ichikawa] Yes.

[Yamamoto] Does Komeito think that it should strive for an early enactment of the bill at the ordinary session?

[Ichikawa] Putting early or other such adjectives aside, we approve of this PKO bill under the policy judgment that Japan needs to make international contributions. Almost seven months' time is left. In addition, there are such issues as the opening of the rice market, automobile exports, and the participation of nations in PKO in the Cambodian armistice. Thus, international relations continue to be tough to Japan. How Japan should act in the world is a tough question. So, we hope to have the people ponder these questions and to give ear to their voices fully and obtain their understanding before having the PKO bill enacted at the next ordinary Diet session somehow. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Mr. Yonezawa, will the DSP seek prior approval anew at the ordinary session?

[Yonezawa] We are not saying that only Diet approval will do. We are saying that a bill incorporating the five principles, which Komeito has just mentioned, should be enacted, in addition to obtaining the Diet's approval. If we hold further debates cool-headedly from now on, I think that a compromise to a certain extent will be possible. A problem, however, is that we feel the Foreign Ministry was too inflexible throughout the latest deliberations. I do not know if the ministry has many requests to make because a bill is to be enacted, which will pave the way for Japan to go abroad independently for cooperation in UN activities. But it is a little awkward to make speeches and act as if once the bill is enacted, Japan would become a diplomatic superpower in one swoop. [laughter] I am afraid that this is going too far in view of Japan's past. I may be taking a poor example but it is like a fresh first grader at an elementary school making various requests as to how his knapsack should be, and, after putting the knapsack on his back, he thinks he could go not only to an elementary school but also to middle school, high school, and even college. I think this kind of thinking is common. So, I wish to point out that this is the biggest factor standing in the way of debates among parties, after all.

[Yamamoto] Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato, what is your comment on this criticism of the posture taken by the Foreign Ministry?

[Kato] There are a variety of views in the government, and we intend to listen to these views, but I think that the problem lies not in such government affairs but in the basic principle of how Japan should cope with internationalization. At the time of the Gulf crisis, Japan came under foreign criticism for its contribution in only money. We gave thought to this problem over and over again, but, at the same time, we want to keep Japan as a peace-loving country. Everyone desperately pondered on this problem. We should not forget that zeal. At the next Diet session, therefore, we should think about this problem. Since there are parties that laid the foundation for approval of the PKO bill—the LDP, the DSP, and Komeito—we will do our best to persuade and win the understanding of other parties. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Well, there can be various views, I think. Now, Mr. Watanuki, from the viewpoint of promoting the passage of the bill I think it will be necessary to look for a certain point of compromise among the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP, like making another revision, for example. What are your thoughts about this?

[Watanuki] As I said earlier, a basic agreement was reached among the LDP, Komeito, and the DSP. The bill passed the House of Representatives already and is now before the House of Councilors. The House of Councilors deliberated on it for 22 hours already. Therefore, I have a strong desire that the bill be approved at the next session under the principle of ironing out minor differences for the best common interests.

[Yamamoto] Do you mean to say that there is a scope for making another revision to the bill, depending on the outcome of negotiations?

[Watanuki] It will all depend on the talks to be held from now on.

[Yamamoto] Next, I would like to change the subject to the issue of summoning witnesses in connection with the Recruit scandal. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Lastly, Mr. Chief Cabinet Secretary, the latest opinion surveys show that the Miyazawa cabinet is receiving quite harsh treatment, centering around Prime Minister Miyazawa's leadership. What is your view on this question?

[Kato] I think that the failure to have the PKO bill approved was the problem. As far as that question is concerned, as I said earlier, we will be sure to do our best at the next Diet session. Now, there are a host of international questions to be addressed and we intend to hold talks with other parties theme by theme as they do in the United States and other countries, if the talks will be really in the interests of the nation. In the United States, leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties gather in the White House and talk over critical international issues. We hope to do the same by all means. In that event, however, I think that a party, which alleges that it is evil to hold talks with the LDP government in itself, will be excluded. I think that it will be good if a time comes when we can do a job together like that in the interests of the people. [passage omitted]

[Yamamoto] Thank you very much for being with us for a long time.

North Korea

Differences at 28 Dec N-S Discussion Reported

SK2812144091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] The second round of contacts between North-South delegates to discuss the nuclear issue was held on 28 December on the South side's portion of Panmunjom.

Two delegates from each side of the North-South high-level talks and three experts from each side participated in the contact. The contact was held behind closed doors.

After the contact, our side's delegates gave a news briefing on today's contact.

Our side pointed out that at the first round of contacts, our side had presented a draft joint declaration for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, a momentous and dramatic new proposal, to resolve the nuclear issue in which the nation's destiny is at stake, and demanded that the South side produce a new proposal, as it had promised to give an affirmative answer to our proposal at today's contact.

With regard to this, the South side said that first of all it highly assesses once again the momentous proposal presented by our side at the first round of contacts. Then, because the South side could no longer insist on its unfair claim over our dramatic and rational new proposal, it eliminated in the preface of its original proposal the part accepting without any sense of sovereignty international restrictions and the part in one article on biological and chemical weapons, which have no relations with the nuclear issue.

Nevertheless, the proposal offered by the South side still contained such articles as signing and inspection, which means interference in our internal affairs, and articles on inspection of civilian facilities, which has nothing to do with denuclearization.

With regard to this, our side's delegate first of all emphasized that the South side is making the issue of signing a subject of discussion in which there is a need to have a clear understanding of this. Our side reiterated that this issue will be settled with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] independently and as soon as possible. Our side firmly said that it is useless for the South side to distort the actual fact by saying that this is due to the urgency of some event and so on and to assume an attitude of ordering around the counterpart in the dialogue.

The South side said that during the first round of contacts, our side wrote a threatening scenario because of some kind of signing and inspection issue. Our side said that it hopes the South side will not play a part in that scenario and firmly stated that if this damages our dignity, the writer, producer, and actor of this scenario will all be (?condemned) in the name of the nation.

Our side urged the South side to refrain from creating complexity at the contact in discussing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula by coming out with the nuclear safeguards accord issue, which we should independently resolve with the IAEA, and to completely delete that matter from the articles. The South side said that it will study further our magnificent claim and reasonable and orderly refutation.

Then our side referred to the inspection of civilian facilities brought forward by the South side. Our side said that the issue of civilian facilities was to be discussed and resolved at the North-South Joint Military Committee, which will be established as stipulated in the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and South, and that this issue, which the South side included in the denuclearization proposal, would only make it complicated in resolving the issue. With regard to this, the South side showed a positive attitude toward our claim and said that it will further study this matter.

The South side, however, insisted that the words on banning the introduction of nuclear weapons be deleted from Article 1 of our draft proposal of the joint declaration. In this connection, our side stressed that since the storage, deployment, and use of nuclear weapons are caused, ultimately, by the introduction of nuclear weapons from abroad or by the production of them on one's own, the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula can be thoroughly realized only when even the words on banning the introduction of nuclear weapons, not to mention banning their production, are clearly stated in the article.

Then, our side made it clear that originally the nuclear problem in our country cropped up after the United States introduced nuclear weapons into South Korea.

The South side, while agreeing to this argument by our side, did not withdraw its unreasonable assertions, so it was decided to further discuss this problem.

Also, the South side, while opposing Article 4 of our draft proposal of the joint declaration, which makes it clear that the North and South shall jointly inspect the comprehensive and total withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and the disarmament of the nuclear bases in the south of the Korean peninsula and verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, contended in a far-fetched manner that it had neither confirmed nor denied the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

In response to this, the head of our side demanded that the South side explain why it denies the fact, even after the Americans, who are responsible for the production and deployment of the nuclear weapons and who have the authority to use and withdraw them, have officially admitted that U.S. nuclear weapons had already been deployed in South Korea.

Our side said that our position is to believe the claim of the person in authority in South Korea that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea and to comprehensively verify their presence.

The South side said that it would study that matter, too.

Furthermore, the South side opposed Article 5 in the draft joint declaration presented by our side, which says that the North and South shall refrain from all military training and exercises simulating a nuclear attack, and proposed to delete it. Then the South side insisted that this article advanced by the North side is aimed at the Team Spirit joint military exercise and that it is not a nuclear war exercise.

In this connection, the head of our side said that it is universal knowledge that the Team Spirit joint military exercises are nuclear war exercises and that even Americans publicly say that they are nuclear war exercises, stressing that it is our fundamental stance that not only the Team Spirit joint military exercise, but also all kinds of military training and exercises simulating a nuclear attack, should not be allowed.

Then, our side said that a nuclear war exercise, even on a small scale, can spill into a nuclear war that will result in annihilating the nation by a trivial mistake.

The South side promised that it would study our logical, reasonable stand.

It was decided to have the next contact on 31 December.

Implementing Reconciliation Provisions Viewed

SK2912090791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0829 GMT 29 Dec 91

["First Valuable Step for National Reconciliation and Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—The North and the South must not confine themselves to the adoption of the agreement but promptly discuss practical measures to implement the provisions of "North-South reconciliation" first of all, as demanded by the fellow countrymen.

NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a signed article on the adoption of the North-South agreement at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks.

The adoption of the agreement is an epoch-making event which gave our nation hope and conviction of peace and reunification of the country, the article notes, and continues:

The agreement fully embodies the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song long ago and it is run through with our party's consistent lines of one Korea, reunification, peace against war and independence against outside forces.

The agreement lays main stress on the issue of terminating North-South confrontation and achieving reconciliation and unity.

The eight articles of "North-South reconciliation" represent the firm stand of our party and the DPRK Government and the unanimous desire of the entire people to achieve national reconciliation and unity and peacefully solve the problem of national reunification.

The matter of the North and the South recognising and respecting each other's system set out in the agreement is an important starting point of national reconciliation and unity between the North and the South.

The agreement of the North and the South on recognising and respecting each other's system and refraining from slandering the other side is aimed at making it clear that the North-South relations are not relations between countries but an internal affair of the nation and, on this principle, inducing the North and the South to seek reunification, respect each other and achieve reconciliation and unity.

Stipulated in "North-South reconciliation" is also joint efforts of the North and the South to turn the present armistice into a durable peace.

It was entirely thanks to our just stand and consistent, sincere efforts to reunify the country peacefully on the basis of great national unity that the part "North-South reconciliation" could be composed of provisions conducive to removing the distrust and realising reconciliation and national unity between the two parts of the country. The adoption of the inter-Korean agreement is a victory of the line of great national unity over the line of North-South political confrontation.

If the North and the South are reconciled to each other and the entire nation is united, this would mean national reunification itself.

As the North and the South have decided to unite and follow the line of reunification, the South Korean authorities must promptly take measures for abolishing the "National Security Law" and other anti-national fascist laws which define the North as the enemy and the pro-reunification patriotic forces of South Korea as criminals, and must make a decision to release the reunification messengers who visited the North.

South Urged To Abide by Agreement Principles

SK2912052391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Commentary by station commentator Cho Tong-ik: "Actions Are More Important Than Words"]

[Text] The authorities of the North and the South signed the historic agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchanges sometime ago. This was a momentous event and a bright prospect for resolving the issue of peace and reunification. Thus, this gave a great pleasure to all fellow countrymen on the threshold of a new year.

All fellow countrymen in the North and the South hope that the agreement will become effective as soon as possible, that concrete and practical measures to implement the agreement will be taken, and that a turning point for peace and peaceful reunification will be reached up next year.

We have clearly expressed our intention to make all efforts to implement the agreement rapidly and sincerely and have taken a measure to validate the agreement.

At the 19th Plenary Session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] held on 24 December, the results of the fifth round of the North-South high-level talks and tasks to expedite independent and peaceful reunification were put on the agenda; the acceptance of the agreement was highly appraised; and measures and tasks to carry out the agreement were discussed.

The joint meeting of the Central People's Committee and DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committee, held on 26 December, deliberated the North-South agreement and officially approved it.

Whether the agreement can be carried out rapidly and smoothly depends upon the South's sincerity. The South Korean authorities said that they will try to concretely implement the agreement. However, the issue is one of attitude: to implement the agreement in practice rather than the words.

The agreement was adopted 15 days ago. Considering the South Korean authorities' attitude, it is difficult to say if their attitude promotes a policy in the spirit of the agreement. No Tae-u, the top in authority in South Korea, went to frontline areas and said: Even though the North and the South intend for reconciliation and cooperation, the army should nevertheless be operationally alert. He incited war fever by talking about a northward invasion, while stressing that the U.S. forces occupying South Korea should remain vigilant thoroughly prepared for any situation. Thus, he clearly revealed his intention to continue a war line against us in collaboration with foreign aggressors.

It goes without saying that these traitorous remarks and acts clearly go against the spirit of the North-South agreement that confirms nonaggression and dissipation of military confrontation.

The South Korean authorities have conducted many acts running counter to the spirit of the agreement to end political confrontation and to seek national reconciliation between the North and the South. Instead of abrogating the National Security Law—an anachronistic, antireconciliation, and antireunification law—which regulates the Northern half of the republic as an antinational organization, they have wielded this vicious law and continued to demand harsh punishment and sentences for enthusiastic youths and patriotic figures who have acted righteously for national reconciliation, unity, and reunification.

Their suppressive atrocities have recently victimized Kim Chong-sik, former chairman of the National Council of University Student Representatives [Chongdaehyop]; Han Chol-su, chairman of the National Reunification Committee under to Chondaehyop; Rev. Hong Kun-su; and Sim Hyong-chun, arrested and indicted for the incident at the Seoul Research Institute for Social and Science Affairs.

The South Korean authorities released other prisoners for occasion of Christmas, but they did not release prisoners charged with visiting the North. Considering these facts, we worry that the South Korean authorities still seek confrontation, war, and a splittist policy after signing the agreement. We also worry that they are following in the footsteps of their predecessors who infringed upon the 4 July joint statement without hesitation right after signing it.

If the South Korean authorities think that acceptance of the agreement is one thing and their actions are another, the agreement cannot be implemented. Worse, they will give birth to new distrust and will aggravate confrontation between the North and the South.

Actions are more important than words. The South Korean authorities should not be content with just signing the agreement. Instead of only talking about implementing the agreement, they should assume a far-sighted attitude to sincerely implement and embody the agreement with practical acts.

To this end, they should substitute the policy of confrontation with one of great national unity. They should substitute a policy of war with a policy of peace. They should substitute a splittist policy with a reunification policy. In addition, they should give up dependence on foreign forces as soon as possible.

They should unconditionally stop the 1992 Team Spirit joint military exercise which will be held in South Korea in collaboration with foreign forces. They should come to the table to urgently resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. Their attitude toward this will be a yardstick for determining if they really have the will for peace and peaceful reunification or if they seek confrontation and war.

We will watch the next acts of the South Korean authorities.

Daily: N-S Agreement Result of Party Efforts

SK3012103391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1012 GMT 30 Dec 91

["Victory of Our Just Line of Collaboration and Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The adoption of the North-South agreement at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks is a fine result of the just line of peace and reunification, collaboration and unity consistently maintained by the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government and their sincere efforts for its implementation.

NODONG SINMUN today stresses this in a signed article.

The adoption of the joint document of agreement promising the solution of the political and military problems including nonaggression and the realisation of cooperation and exchange provided a substantial guarantee for promoting the realisation of cooperation and exchange in conformity with the common interests of the nation, the article notes, and says:

The point is how to let this good North-South agreement prove effective.

In order to make the agreement contribute to national unity and reunification, it is imperative to maintain the principle of realising North-South cooperation and exchange simultaneously with the removal of the political and military confrontation.

For multi-faceted cooperation and exchange between the North and the South, the barrier of division standing in its way must be pulled down and all sorts of leftovers of the age of confrontation be liquidated. Everyone should be allowed to participate in the patriotic work for national reunification. Measures should be taken to realise economic cooperation and exchange for a unified development of the national economy and the well-being of the entire nation and exchange successes and experiences and cooperate in different fields and, at the same time, to jointly proceed to the external arena.

We will sincerely implement the agreed points so that the North-South cooperation and exchange may contribute to promoting the common prosperity and unified development of the nation and accelerating the peaceful reunification of the country. The South Korean authorities should also take positive measures to implement the agreement from a sincere position.

Envoy to Russia on Signing N-S Nuclear Accord

LD2912103591 Moscow TASS in English 1011 GMT 29 Dec 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Aleksey Luzin]

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is prepared to sign an agreement on guarantees to the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and would agree to inspection in accordance with the established procedure, Son Song-pil, North Korean ambassador in Moscow, told TASS today.

South Korea's recent statement that "not a single nuclear weapon has remained in the South of the peninsula" was welcomed in the DPRK, the ambassador said.

If U.S. nuclear weapons have been fully removed from South Korea, this, in the ambassador's opinion, is an illustration of "a great triumph of our nation that has persistently striven for the elimination of the menace of a nuclear war".

At the same time he emphasised that when the DPRK undergoes an inspection under a nuclear safeguards accord, "it is essential to carry out a simultaneous inspection in South Korea to verify and confirm the fact that U.S. nuclear weapons are absent from the south of the Korean peninsula".

The North Korean ambassador voiced regret over the fact that the United Nations has not up to now officially confirmed the fact of removal of nuclear weapons from South Korea's territory. He pointed out that Pyongyang hopes that the U.S. side will clarify its position.

The South Korean "declaration on the ensurance of a non-nuclear status" followed the DPRK's proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, the ambassador emphasised.

He believes that North and South Korea should immediately adopt a joint declaration on making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone.

Japan's Moves for Military Expansion Criticized

SK2912094791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0821 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—Ill-boding moves for overseas military expansion are becoming pronounced within the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan.

According to a report from Tokyo, the LDP "Special Research Council on the Role of Japan in the International Community" held a committee meeting on December 26 and reached the conclusion that "it is possible for the 'Self-Defence Forces' [SDF] to join not only the regular U.N. forces but also such U.S.-led U.N. forces as were organized in the past Korean war."

This is an anti-peace stance of the Japanese ruling group toeing the U.S. line, which means, in fact, that it intends to drive out the "SDF" as cannon fodder for the U.S. imperialists' overseas intervention and aggression.

The Japanese ruling group captive to expansionist ambition had persistently laid before the Diet the matter of the form of the dispatch of the "SDF" and at last has gone the extent of uttering words little short of a declaration that it is possible for the "SDF" to join even the U.S.-led multinational forces abusing the U.N. flag, not to speak of regular U.N. forces.

This virtually means that Japan is willing to offer her young people to U.S.-led multinational aggression forces and open the way for her overseas expansion through this.

This wild design of the Japanese ruling group is an anti-human act going against the trend of the era toward peace and detente and an unpardonable act violating domestic and international laws.

The peace-loving people in Asia and the rest of the world will never allow the posterity of samurai to wield the bloodstained sword.

The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan should look squarely at the trend of the times and discard its anachronistic ambition for militarist expansion overseas.

Further on Economic Delegation's Visit to Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Delegation

SK2712043091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Dec 91

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great 1 September Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, received the DPRK Government economic delegation led by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, on 23 December. This delegation was visiting Libya at that time.

On this occasion, the delegation's head extended greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi appreciated this and asked the delegation's head to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. He stressed that he always supports His Excellency President Kim Il-song's policy for reunifying the country. He said that the U.S. imperialists must leave South Korea along with all of their weapons. The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Economic Protocol Signed 24 Dec

SK2912090391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0819 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—A protocol of the eighth meeting of the Joint Economic Committee of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah was signed in Tarabulus on December 24.

The protocol was signed by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs of Korea and 'Izz-al-din al-Hinshari, secretary for traffic, communications and public transports of Libya.

Delegation Returns Home 27 Dec

SK3012071691 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] The DPRK Government economic delegation led by Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic affairs, returned home today by plane after visiting Syria and Libya.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Chon Il-chun, vice minister of external economic affairs, and the People's Committee secretary d'affaires ad interim [as heard] of the Libyan People's Bureau in our country.

Official Urges Solution to Honecker Problem

SK2912090191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—It is proper for the parties concerned to take steps to ensure that the Honecker problem be solved at an early date from the humanitarian point of view. A spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declared this today answering the question put by a KCNA reporter in connection with the fact that the problem of medical treatment for Honecker has not been resolved to meet his wishes. The spokesman DNR [expansion unknown]: Honecker now finds himself in very difficult physical and mental conditions. We have clarified through our statements our stand to receive Honecker and give medical treatment to him in the light of humanitarianism and human rights in order to meet his request for treatment in our country. It is only natural from the humanitarian point of view for us to let the seriously ailing man get treatment as he wishes. Fair-minded people of the world are expressing sympathy with our humanitarian stand and step and unanimously hold that he should be allowed to get treatment in Pyongyang as early as possible. To our regret, however, this issue still remain unresolved. According to information available, Honecker's health is further deteriorating as he is suffering also from mental agony in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, not a medical institution. Should this nearly eighty years old sick man continue to remain without the medical care which had been offered to him even shortly ago and in such a precarious mental condition this would bring irrevocable consequences to his life, he added.

Armed Forces Host New Year's Cocktail Party

SK3012152391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1513 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The Ministry of People's Armed Forces hosted a cocktail party this evening for the military attaches of foreign embassies in Pyongyang greeting the New Year 1992.

Gen. Chon Mun-sop, other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army were present there together with the guests.

Speeches were made there.

Envoy Meets Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni

SK2712045991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met with Chon Kyong-chol, DPRK ambassador to Uganda, on 20 December. On this occasion, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Yoweri Museveni. The president appreciated this and asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. A conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere on this occasion.

New Envoys Appointed to Sweden, Guinea-Bissau

SK2712093291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 27 (KCNA)—Yom Kyong-sik was appointed DPRK ambassador to Sweden and Sin Pyong-chol DPRK ambassador to Guinea-Bissau, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

Council Adopts Decision on Free Trade Zones

SK3012104691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—The Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea adopted its decision No. 74 "On Creating Free Economic and Trade Zones."

The decision dated December 28 says:

It is a consistent policy of the DPRK Government to develop economic relations with many countries of the world.

The northern region of our country not only holds an importance place in the economic development of the country but also is geographically favorable to expanding and developing economic exchange and cooperation with its neighbouring and other countries of the world.

The DPRK Administration Council, with a view to accelerating the economic construction of the country and further expanding and developing economic and trade relations with other countries, decides as follows:

1. Free economic and trade zones shall be created in

Najin and Sonbong, North Hamgyong Province.

The free economic and trade zones cover an area of 621

square kilometres.

2. In the free economic and trade zones foreigners are allowed to establish and run various forms of businesses including co-production, joint-venture and foreign-funded businesses and engage in various service businesses with the approval of the competent organ of the DPRK.

Najin and Sonbong ports in the free economic and trade zones and Chongjin port in its adjacent area shall be free trade ports.

3. The state shall protect by law the capital invested by foreigners and their income from businesses in the free economic and trade zones.

Various special favors and conveniences including reduction of and exemption from tariffs and income tax shall be provided to the businesses established and run in the free economic and trade zones according to the character of investments.

Kim Chong-il Replies to Jiang Zemin's Message

SK2812125591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text of message from Kim Chong-il to Jiang Zemin, chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission, in reply to his congratulatory message on Kim's election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army—read by announcer]

[Text] Beijing
Comrade Jiang Zemin, chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission:

I extend my deep gratitude to you for having kindly sent a congratulatory message to me on my assuming the job as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

Expressing my conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the parties, peoples, and armies of Korea and China will strengthen and develop even further in the future, I wish you greater successes in your responsible work of strengthening and developing the party of China and the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

[Signed] Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the KPA

[Dated] 28 December 1991, Pyongyang

More Reaction to Kim Chong-il's KPA Election

So Yun-sok Welcomes New Commander

SK2912034991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Speech by So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, responsible secretary of the South Pyongan provincial party committee, and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, at a mass rally in South Pyongan Province; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: All of the people in the country are now filled with boundless and stirring joy over the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] at the 19th Plenary Session of the Sixth Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee.

The election of the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the outstanding leader of our party and people, as the supreme commander of the KPA at the party Central Committee plenary session expressed the unanimous desire and firm will of our party and people determined to consummate the revolutionary cause of chuche with the sagacious comrade leader at the head of our revolutionary forces, as well as all the party members', people's, and KPA soldiers' absolute confidence in and boundless loyalty to him. [applause]

Upholding of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of the KPA is a firm guarantee for our party, people, and KPA soldiers to brilliantly consummate the revolutionary cause of chuche explored by the great leader under the outstanding and tested guidance of the dear comrade leader. It is an historical event, strengthening and developing our revolutionary forces and achieving victory of the socialist cause.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a master of ideology and theory, a genius of creation and construction, and a prodigious strategist who, with his uncommon resourcefulness and outstanding leadership ability, brilliantly inherits and develops the cause of chuche explored by the great leader.

Thanks to the dear comrade leader's tested leadership, despite a grave situation in which the country remains divided and the aggression and antisocialist maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists, the ringleader of the global imperialism, are becoming more serious over time, our party and people have been able to vigorously advance our revolution on a straightforward path to victory, achieve the rock-firm unity and cohesion of the party and the revolutionary ranks unheard of in the history of the communist movement, and satisfactorily build in our country socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses in which the chuche idea has been brilliantly embodied under the banner of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

At a time when a grave situation is developing—many countries are losing to the enemies their revolutionary gains attained with the blood of their ancestors and ruining the party and socialist cause as a whole because they have no one to stand for inheriting the cause of the leader who has blazed the revolutionary road for the first time—our party and people know no greater honor, happiness, and pride than carrying out the revolution by upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is boundlessly faithful to the great leader's revolutionary cause and has at his disposal uncommon leadership and outstanding ideological and theoretical, military, and strategic resourcefulness. He is the great successor to the revolutionary cause of chuche and a sagacious leader of our party and the revolutionary armed forces. [applause]

Because it is advancing under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, whom it upholds as the head of our party and revolution, our revolution is making giant strides on a single road of chuche, without wavering under any stormy circumstances.

An acute struggle is being carried out between revolution and antirevolution and socialism and capitalism in the international arena. In this period of rapid changes the ideological and theoretical activity of the dear leader comrade—who is in charge of the future of our revolution and cause of world socialism, who is concentrating unyielding toil, who is firmly advocating and adhering to the great leader's revolutionary ideology, and who is elucidating the intense revolutionary principle and correct struggle guidelines—ranges widely over all sectors including the party and state building, building of the socialist economic culture, building of the people's forces, and the basic strategy and tactic for the reunification of the fatherland and world revolution. Also, due to its depth, science, uniqueness, and completeness the ideological and theoretical activity of the dear leader comrade is at its highest state in history.

Because the dear leader comrade, a true genius of the great idea and theory, is being held at the top of the revolution with the most correct guiding ideology, our party and people are standing at the forefront of the era and becoming the most glorious and invincible party and people with the most pride. We are advancing the chuche revolutionary cause and socialist cause along the one road of victory, which was pioneered by the great leader. [applause]

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an extraordinary and excellent leader. He led our party and revolution along the one of victory and provided a strong chuche of the revolution. He is also a genius of creation and construction who completely intensified and developed socialism of our own style.

The dear leader comrade always gave priority to strengthening the party, which is the political organization with leadership function of society and the general staff of the revolution. By maintaining the party's organizational and ideological basis like bedrock, he made it possible to adhere to our party's chuche-type character and achieve a new, momentous turning point in party building.

Under the wise leadership of the dear leader comrade, modeling the whole party after the chuche idea was brilliantly realized. Therefore, it was further strengthened and developed into a revolutionary party firmly guaranteeing the unity of ideology and leadership; a militant party possessing strong organizational spirit and discipline in which the whole party thinks and moves as one, making it possible to maintain the organizational and ideological cohesion and unity of the party ranks into an invincible one; and a mature and refined party, which acquired invincible achievements and rich experiences in the revolution and construction.

Our revolutionary ranks are firmly united under one ideological will centering on the great leader and the dear leader comrade. The party is more deeply rooted among the masses, and the strong blood relations between the party and masses are unprecedented.

The dear leader comrade asserted that accelerating the socialist and economic construction is an important revolutionary task of the working class party, which holds the political ruling power. He vigorously organized and mobilized the whole party and all the people throughout the nation to carry this out so that endless progress and innovation can be achieved in all fronts of socialist economic building.

Thanks to the dear comrade leader's outstanding ideas and wise leadership, chuche orientation, modernization, and application of science to the national economy have been vigorously carried out. Monumental creations and modern plants and enterprises, designed to illustrate prosperity for all generations have been built throughout the country. Thus, the foundation for a socialist self-reliant national economy has been further consolidated.

Under the wise leadership of the dear comrade leader, South Pyongan Province has been turned into a base of raw materials, energy, and chemical industry capable of promoting the people's living standard in terms of materials and technology; into a powerful base for machine manufacturing and construction material; and into a firm agricultural production base.

With uncommon military knowledge and outstanding charisma, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il thoroughly implemented the party's military line which takes as its basic content converting the entire army into a cadre army; modernizing the entire army, arming all of the people; and turning the entire army into a fortress. Thus, he strengthened and developed our revolutionary armed forces into one-a-match-for-100 iron-clad revolutionary ranks and firmly adhered to the chuche-oriented cause for building of the army achieved by the great leader. He is developing this cause into a new higher standard. He is a genius in military affairs.

The election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the KPA supreme commander at the 19th plenum of the sixth party Central Committee reflects the ardent desire and unanimous will of all of our party members, people, and officers and men of our People's Army. The election also clearly demonstrates absolute trust in and boundless respect for the dear comrade leader—great thinker and theoretician of the chuche idea, a genius of revolution and construction, and prominent military strategist—by the entire party, army, and people. The election can be regarded as a most legitimate step for brilliant inheritance and accomplishment of the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader. [applause]

All party members, people, and People's Army officers and men warmly support and welcome the election of the sagacious comrade leader as the KPA supreme commander at the recent plenum of the party Central Committee. They extend congratulations to the dear comrade leader and endless respect.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, dear leader of our party and our people, is brilliantly realizing the great leader's ideas and plans by leading our party, people, and People's Army. He is making immortal achievements for consolidation and development of the party, the revolution, and the People's Army; for prosperity of the fatherland and people; and for accomplishment and victory of the chuche socialist cause. I take this opportunity to extend greatest honor and warmest thanks to him, as well as ardent loyalty and endless respect from all of us. [applause]

Daily Stresses KPA's Loyalty

SK2812141391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 28 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 28 December editorial: "Our People's Army Is the Revolution's Army, the Party's Army, and the People's Army"]

[Text] Our party has been wisely leading the work in all fields of the revolution and construction as the organizer and guide of all victories of our people. Under our party's leadership, our People's Army has been strengthened and developed to be a strong and mighty revolutionary armed force and the iron-strong ranks of the chuche-type revolutionary soldiers.

Being endlessly loyal to the party's leadership and upholding the party forever is the most noble ideological and spiritual trait of all our people and People's Army. At the 19th plenary meeting of the Sixth Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA]. This is a shining realization of the consistent aspiration of the entire party membership, all the people, and all the officers and men of the People's Army. It is the manifestation of the blazing loyalty of our people and soldiers of the People's Army to their great leader [yongdoja], who assumes total responsibility for the country's and nation's fate and the revolution's future and who exercises his leadership for them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, speaking at the KPA company political directors' meeting, said that Comrade Kim Chong-il was appointed supreme commander of the KPA at the 19th plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee. He expressed his expectation that the entire army will remain loyal, upholding the leadership of the comrade supreme commander. He then gave a programmatic teaching on fortifying our People's Army as a revolution's army, the party's army, and the People's Army.

Because they uphold the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the head of our revolutionary armed forces as the KPA's supreme commander, all the people in the entire country and the officers and men of the People's Army are filled with great feelings of gratitude and joy. They are vigorously accelerating the revolution and construction with greater faith and optimism. It is a great glory for our people and People's Army to have elected the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the KPA's supreme commander, and it was a momentous event in carrying out the chuche revolutionary cause.

Today, an endlessly bright and resplendent prospect is developing for the future of our revolutionary armed forces. The loyalty of the officers and men of our People's Army who are determined to carry out the revolution to the end following the great leader [yongdoja] is all the more firm and unshakable, and the unity and cohesion of our party and our army are being solidified as indestructible and unbreakable by anything.

Our People's Army will inherit forever from generation to generation its glorious tradition formed in the blaze of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. The most ardent desire of the fallen revolutionary fighters to maintain steadily the tradition of our revolution, looking at the bright star over Mt. Paektu, has now been brilliantly achieved. This is the source of our people's and People's Army's unparalleled joy and happiness. The old veterans of the revolution who fought, upholding the great general Kim Il-song, the iron-willed sagacious general, are overwhelmed by great joy now that they have today the same glory they had then.

Our People's Army is the revolution's army, the party's army, and the People's Army. This is the great pride of our People's Army and the source of its indestructible might. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The People's Army is the army of our party that is guided by the chuche idea and struggles for the victory of the chuche idea.

The entire history of our People's Army has been the glorious course of a loyal struggle for the revolution and the people under the party's and the leader's leadership. The founding of our People's Army was made by the leader of the revolution, it is strengthened and developed under the leader's leadership, and all its victories and glories were made possible in the leader's bosom.

As early as great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's founding of the first revolutionary armed forces in the Paektu forest, our army pledged loyalty to the leader and has since waged a loyal struggle, keeping the pledge in the stern road of the revolution. Endless loyalty to the leader [yongdoja] is the foremost life of our People's Army and the traditional revolutionary spirit which has become a way of life in the trials of its long history.

The election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the KPA's supreme commander at this time reflects the sense of endless loyalty of our People's Army and people that historically took root in their hearts and reflects their firm revolutionary aspiration and zeal to uphold their leader forever in the future, too.

Our party is a great leader [widaehan yongdoja] that made great achievements in building, strengthening, and developing the chuche- oriented revolutionary armed forces.

Regarding the strengthening and development of the revolutionary army as an important issue linked to the revolution's destiny, to the nation's and people's future, and to the people's freedom and happiness, our party always attached importance to military affairs and wisely led the cause of building the army.

Our party perfectly embodied the outstanding military ideas, theories, and the chuche-oriented tactics and alchemy of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song—the founder of our revolutionary armed forces—and constantly strengthened and developed the People's Army politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically in compliance with the basic demand of the time and the revolution.

Thanks to the chuche-orientation slogan for the entire army given by dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the basic line for building our party's revolutionary armed forces has been clearly expounded. In the course of implementing this slogan, the chuche-oriented military ideas and theories and tactics were thoroughly embodied in building the army and in military activities. Thus, the People's Army has been strengthened and developed into the party's revolutionary armed forces endlessly loyal to the chuche cause.

The unique military ideas and theories and tactics that our party deepened and developed are firm guidelines that enable one to successfully resolve all problems in military work in compliance with the demand of our era and with the changing circumstances. They are mighty weapons that enable one to firmly defend the revolutionary gains and the security of the people and the socialist cause.

Our party fostered all officers and men of the People's Army to be chuche-type revolutionary soldiers and warmly took care of and led them. Our party's warm benevolence and comradely love have become the life-giving water, making the entire army become one unified organization realizing ideological and conscientious unity and making every soldier a heroic fighter equal to 100 fighters.

Because our party is leading at the van with outstanding military ideas and refined alchemy, our People's Army has been fostered to be an indomitable revolutionary armed force that can crush any strong imperialist enemy.

Today, the daily increasing imperialists' rude and haughty maneuvers for aggression and new war provocation have been checked and frustrated at every step, and our revolution has been firmly defended. Our party, firmly seizing military command, strengthened the party's guidance over the revolutionary armed forces in every way and is leading the entire People's Army so that it can excellently fulfill its lofty missions.

Without our party's refined leadership, no one can think of our revolution's victorious advance, of strengthening and developing the People's Army, and of all the honors and endless happiness of the People's Army soldiers.

Because our people and officers and men of our People's Army realized the greatness of their leader and wise nature of his leadership through practical experiences, they regard the election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the KPA supreme commander the greatest honor and are firmly resolved to highly uphold him forever.

Our People's Army is a revolutionary army endlessly loyal to its party and its leader. The entire history of the Korean revolution shows that a number of loyalists, who fought by dedicating everything to the party and to the revolutionary cause, came from our army.

Our army was not only a death-defying unit which protected the party, the leader, and the revolution with armed forces but also was a group of ardent revolutionaries who had a higher degree of party spirit and revolutionary spirit than any others. Our army consisted of genuine patriots who loved their fatherland more than anybody and of the people's servants who dedicated everything to the people.

The annals of the Korean revolution, which advanced by overcoming numerous trials and an arduous path of struggle, is being stained with precious blood shed by our People's Army and is embroidered with their heroic feats and immortal achievements.

Today the ranks of our People's Army have brilliantly inherited the tradition of loyalty created in the Paektu forest during the early days of our revolutionary armed forces. The officers and men of our People's Army followed the example of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, who highly upheld the great Comrade Hanbyol as commander of the revolutionary armed forces. They regard as their firm faith the slogan, "Let us fight by dedicating our lives to the great leader and to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il!"

It is the invariable will of our People's Army soldiers to live and fight on the road of loyalty throughout their lifetime by entrusting the dear comrade supreme commander with their destiny and to become a shield to tenaciously defend their leader.

It is the traditional temperament and unique militant trait of our People's Army to unconditionally accomplish to the end the party's orders and directives by going through water and fire and by willingly dedicating their youth and life.

It is our People's Army which first upheld the revolutionary slogan, "What the party decides, we will do," and it is our People's Army which effected heroic feats, which surprised the world's people, in realizing the party's gigantic plan to build great monumental creations, including the Sohae Lockgate.

Because the party trusts the army, while the army trusts the party, our party and our army became one single body linked with faith and a sense of obligation. They became iron-clad militant ranks capable of accomplishing anything once they so decided and are not afraid of anything in the world. Therefore, the entire party and all the people firmly believe that the People's Army, upholding comrade supreme commander, can excellently fulfill its sacred missions assigned by the fatherland, the revolution, the times, and history.

Today our people and People's Army face a grave task to accomplish the final victory of socialism and to achieve the chuche cause to the end by upholding the banner of the chuche idea. This historic cause can be brilliantly achieved only when all the people and People's Army render boundless loyalty to the party by upholding the party's and the leader's leadership.

All officers and men of the People's Army should firmly rally themselves behind comrade supreme commander by upholding the programmatic teachings given by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song during the recent meeting of company-level political instructors of the KPA. Thus, they should brilliantly fulfill the glorious mission as the revolution's army, as the party's army, and as the people's army.

It is the firm revolutionary faith of our People's Army and people to share their destiny with the party forever and to traverse only the road of loyalty by cherishing boundless pride in upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the KPA's supreme commander.

The relations between our party and our People's Army are those of unity and cohesion and are blood-relations. All officers and men of the People's Army and all the people should treasure this unity and cohesion as their own eyes in any storm and should strengthen and develop them generation after generation.

The military-civilian unity is a fine traditional custom of our People's Army. It is a glorious mission of our People's Army to serve the fatherland and people. All officers and men of the People's Army should keenly realize that without the people, the People's Army cannot exist nor can it fulfill its mission as revolutionary armed forces. Thus, they should defend the people's lives and property by always linking their destiny to the fatherland's and the people's, and they should fight by dedicating their lives to the motherly nation and to the people's happiness.

All people should spare and love the People's Army soldiers as their own offspring and sincerely support them. Party organizations at each level should always ensure the military-civilian unity and should firmly safeguard the firm unity among the party, the army, and the people.

It is the indomitable spirit of our People's Army to firmly defend the party and the revolutionary cause by cherishing a thorough class consciousness and an anti-imperialist revolutionary spirit and by firmly grasping the weapons of the revolution as long as there are the imperialists in the world.

Just as the anti-Japanese guerrilla units courageously fought like the phoenix in the past by upholding the slogan, "Let us smash the enemy no matter how many times we may die!" officers and men of our People's Army will tenaciously advance with a strong will and indomitable spirit by upholding the red banner of the revolution.

No enemy can match the might of our revolutionary ranks, which constitute the powerful main force of the revolution based on the unity and cohesion of the party, the army, and the people.

Only victory and glory will always be brilliant on the road along which our people and People's Army advance by upholding the great leader [yongdoja] at the van, overflowing with confidence and optimism.

Mass Rallies Hail Election

SK2912083391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0759 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 (KCNA)—Mass rallies and meetings were held in North and South Pyongan Provinces, at the Ministry of Public Security and Kim Il-song University to warmly hail the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's election as Supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] at the 19th plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Reports and speeches were delivered there.

The reporters and speakers said Comrade Kim Chong-il's election as supreme commander of the KPA in accordance with the earnest wish and unanimous will of the entire party members, people and KPA soldiers is a clear expression of the undisputed trust and boundless respect of the whole party, the whole army and the entire people for the dear leader, a great thinker and theoretician of chuche, a genius of revolution and construction and an outstanding military strategist, and a just step to carry to brilliant accomplishment the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Thanks to the tested guidance of the dear leader, our party and people have vigorously advanced our revolution along the road of victory under the revolutionary banner of chuche, despite the intensified anti-DPRK, anti-socialist aggressive moves of U.S. imperialism, and our revolutionary armed forces have creditably discharged their honorable mission and duty as the Army of the party and the leader and the reliable defender of the motherland and the revolution, they noted, expressing their determination to uphold the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty, cherishing deep in mind the great honour of having him at the head of our party and revolutionary armed forces.

They called for firmly defending and glorifying our socialism centred on the masses, feeling high pride and honour in that our leader, our party and our country are the best.

Letters and messages of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the KPA, were adopted at the mass rallies and meetings.

Soldiers Extend Congratulations

SK3012054791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—Mass meetings and a soldiers' rally to warmly congratulate the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA] were held in South Hamgyong Province, North Hwanghae Province, Kangwon Province, Kaesong city and Nampo city, and at the unit of the Korean People's Army to which Comrade Kang Il-hong belongs.

Reporters and speakers at the meetings and rally pointed out that the election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA at the 19th Session of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea is a powerful demonstration of the greatness of our party and of the might of the singlehearted unity of our people who are rallied around the party as firm as a rock and an entirely just step for the brilliant inheritance and accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche pioneered by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

They stressed that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il with extraordinary intelligence and outstanding leadership ability is brilliantly carrying into practice the plan and intention of the great leader and has performed undying feats for the strengthening and development of the party, the revolution and the people's army, prosperity of the country and the people and the accomplishment of the socialist cause of chuche.

They laid stress on becoming true servants and filial persons who remain boundlessly faithful to Comrade Kim Chong-il, cherishing deep in mind the great honor and happiness of having him as the supreme commander of the KPA.

They will strengthen in every way the political, economic and military potentials, rallied around the party and the leader as firm as a rock and stoutly defend our socialism centred on the masses, no matter how the world situation may change and which way the wind may blow, they noted.

Letters of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, were adopted at the meetings and rally.

Kang Hyon-su Identified as Pyongyang Party Chief

SK2912103391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Excerpts] A Pyongyang mass rally took place at Pyongyang Gymnasium on the afternoon of 28 December to warmly congratulate the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on his election as Korean People's Army [KPA] supreme commander. [passage omitted]

Kang Hyon-su, chief secretary of the Pyongyang municipal party committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, reported to the meeting. [passage omitted]

Choe Mun-son Cited as North Hwanghae Party Chief

SK2912104291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Excerpts] A North Hwanghae Provincial mass rally has taken place to warmly congratulate the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on his election as Korean People's Army supreme commander. [passage omitted]

Present at the meeting were Choe Mun-son, chief secretary of the North Hwanghae provincial party committee and chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee; Kim Hyong-chong, chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; and responsible officials of the party, administrative, economic, and labor organizations with university presidents, labor heroes, labor innovators, and workers in the province. [passage omitted]

Year-End Accounting, Distribution Meetings Held

SK2712012891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1457 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Meetings for year-end account settlement and income distribution are being held in the rural communities of Korea.

In recent few days the Sinchang Cooperative Farm in Sinwon County, South Hwanghae Province, the Achang Cooperative Farm in Chollima District, Nampo Municipality, the Sangdan Cooperative Farm in Sinuiju City, North Pyongang Province, the Munam Cooperative Farm of Cholwon County, Kangwon Province, the Pongdae Cooperative Farm in Chongpyong County, South Hamgyong Province, and hundreds of other co-op farms summed up their yearly farming.

Cooperative farms gathered in 8 ton of grain, 10 tons at maximum, per hectacre in many paddy and non-paddy fields this year by doing farming on a scientific and technological basis as required by the chuche method of farming. The grain harvest plan for this year was carried out at 127.6 percent in the Sinchang cooperative farm and at 120 percent on the Chungam Cooperative Farm in Chochon County, Chagang Province, and many other co-op farms overfulfilled their yearly assignments for agricultural production.

Yon Hyong-muk Delivers Thanks to Farmers

SK2412071391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Workers Party of Korea Central Committee congratulatory letter read by Yon Hyong-muk, DPRK premier of the State Administration Council, at a 17 December meeting in Sukchon County, South Pyongan Province—recorded]

[Text] To the functionaries and working people engaged in agriculture in Sukchon County:

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the new agricultural guidance system of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] extends, with fervent loyalty toward the party and the leader, its ardent congratulation to the functionaries and agricultural workers in Sukchon County, who have accomplished a great labor feat in constructing the socialist rural area. [applause]

In December 1961, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, gave historic on-the-spot guidance to Sukchon County, South Pyongan Province. Basing himself on a keen awareness of the enlarged size of the cooperative farms, the strengthened foundation of materials and technology in the rural economy, and the subsequent, gradual transformation of agricultural production into technically intensive agriculture as a result of turning existing agricultural management into the cooperative farms, he established a new agricultural guidance system embodying the requirements of the Chongsan-ri spirit and method.

The new agricultural guidance system, with the county cooperative farm management committee established as a basic unit, is the most superior agricultural guidance system of our style. It requires guidance of the agricultural economy in the manner of enterprise management and strengthened technical guidance in production. This makes it possible to upgrade agricultural production and to achieve a positive, significant turning point in constructing the socialist rural community.

The establishment of the new agricultural guidance system facilitated the successful implementation of three revolutions involving ideology, technology, and culture in the rural area, the industrial assistance to agriculture, the realization of the effective municipal assistance to the rural areas, and the fortified organic combination of all-people property with cooperative property to open a wide road for vigorous acceleration in constructing the socialist rural community.

The creation of the new agricultural guidance system embodies the chuche idea. It is a brilliant fruition of our party's wise leadership, which, by means of epochal guidance on the socialist rural economy, makes it possible to creatively meet the mature demands of development in the rural economy and to successfully solve the problems of the socialist rural area.

Keeping deeply engraved in their hearts a great pride and glory in living and working in the place of origin of the new agricultural guidance system, the functionaries and agricultural workers in Sukchon County have actively launched the struggle to display its superiority for the past 30 years. They have achieved a proud success in the agricultural production and the socialist rural community construction.

The Sukchon County cooperative farm management committee has established the systematic technology for the cooperative farms. It has planned and organized all management activities, grasped tightly and uniformly the state enterprises serving the agricultural technicians and the agricultural management, and organized and guided the cooperative farms management activities. As a result, the committee has more than doubled grain production and has made progress in vegetable production, livestock-raising, fruit cultivation, and sericulture.

The dynamic propulsion of the rural technological revolution has resulted in a dramatically increased number of tractors and trucks, greater farming efficiency, the increased use of chemical fertilizers, and the introduction of numerous new agricultural techniques, all of which have accelerated agricultural industrialization and modernization. Today all the agricultural workers in Sukchon County are enjoying a happy life in the modern rural cultural house, the farmers' technical level has been much improved, and more than 100 technicians and specialists are working on every cooperative farm.

While rallying around the party and the leader and walking along the rewarding road of construction of the socialist rural area, the functionaries and agricultural workers in Sukchon County have deeply realized that our country's socialist rural management system is the best one, that our party's agricultural policy is the most just, and that the agricultural guidance system of our style is the most superior and vital one. The agriculatural workers are devoting all their resources to the struggle of strengthening our party's rural system.

The WPK Central Committee highly assesses the great labor success that the agricultural functionaries and workers in Sukchon County have made in constructing the socialist rural economy by bringing into full play the superiority of the new agricultural guidance system.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: In the economic guidance and enterprise management, we should firmly defend and adhere to the chuche-based socialist economic management system created by our party. In addition to that, we should thoroughly implement the system and give full play to its vitality in constructing socialism.

Highly upholding the requirements of the party Central Committee's letter sent to all the party members, the agricultural functionaries and workers in Sukchon County should cause endless upsurges in all the fronts of constructing the socialist rural community. They should launch an energetic struggle to achieve a new leap forward in 1992 agricultural production to mark the most felicitous year in our nation's history.

Abiding by the party's farming-first policy, the agricultural functionaries and workers in the county should thoroughly carry out the requirements of the (magic farming method) in all farming processes. Based on these requirements, the functionaries and workers should naturally increase soil fertility by doing substantial soil plowing and manuring. They should properly irrigate the fields by completing the irrigation system. They should produce more than ten bags [one bag equals 5.12 U.S. bushels] per chongbo [one chongbo equals 2.45 acres] by establishing the scientific manuring system and thereby enriching the effects of fertilizer. Thus the functionaries and workers in the county should enhance the glory of Sukchon County as a large cooperative farm with 200,000 pyong [one pyong equals 3.954 sq yds].

At the same time, the rural economy should be developed in the diversified manner, and the production of meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and cocoons should be increased rapidly. While consolidating the achievements already accomplished in the process of the technical revolution, Sukchon County should increase the technicians' roles in every way, should accelerate the comprehensive mechanization of rural management, and should aggressively strive to realize overall scientification.

The county cooperative farm management committee functionaries should take a direct, tight grip on and should guide all the management activities ranging from planning to production and should manage land, agricultural machinery, utilization of irrigation facilities, technology development, material security, (?working) power supply and demand, and financial management. The committee functionaries should also decisively strengthen the technical guidance of the rural management and should make a greater (?turning point) in the agricultural production. Thus the committee functionaries should positively contribute to realizing the party's far-reaching plan to feed all our people with boiled rice and meat soup, to clothe them in silk, and to provide them with tile-roofed houses.

Party organizations in rural areas, including county party committees, should vigorously wage organizational and political work so as to strengthen party committee's collective guidance and to concentrate strength on farm work and should see to it that functionaries and the working people in the agricultural sector assiduously do all farm work with firm faith, "what the party decides we will do," and with the attitude of being the master of the revolution and the master of farm field, thereby effecting a greater innovation in agricultural production and rural construction.

Functionaries and the working people in the agricultural sector in Sukchon County should firmly arm themselves with the chuche idea and the Korean-nation-first spirit and should thoroughly implement the party's agricultural policy under the principle of absoluteness and unconditionality. They should also firmly unite as one mind around the party and the leader and should become genuine loyalists and dutiful children who resolutely struggle for the victory of the chuche revolutionary cause.

Party members and the working people in the agricultural sector in the county should further promote their technological and cultural level so that they become engineers and junior engineers. By establishing tidiness in production and wideness in life they should more culturally and sanitarily build rural villages and thoroughly do away with old and backward living custom.

The WPK Central Committee firmly believe that functionaries and the working people in the agricultural sector of Sukchon County will firmly unite around the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, will resolutely defend and implement the party's agricultural policy, and, thus, will outstandingly repay the party's confidence and expectation. [applause]

The WPK Central Committee

17 December 1991

Daily Stresses Revolutionary View of Organization

SK2612025491 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 21 Dec 91

[NODONG SINMUN 21 December special article: "Revolutionary View of the Organization Is the Workers Party of Korea Members' Noble Trait"]

[Text] The honorable Workers Party of Korea [WPK] is a militant party filled with vigorous and revolutionary spirits. It has become a party with dignity and invincible might because all of the party members possess a revolutionary view of the organization and are leading party lives. A revolutionary view of the organization is inalienable to WPK members.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has pointed out: A genuine and dignified revolutionary considers organizations more valuable than life and holds living and struggling in reliance on organizations as an ironclad principle.

Today all our party members boundlessly trust and follow their party anytime, anywhere; implement the party's decisions and instructions through thick and thin; and share joy and sorrow with the party.

Our party members' greatest pride is to think of the party as a mother's embrace, entrusting their destiny to it completely, and upholding it. Our Workers Party members' ardent enthusiasm and loyalty in upholding the party are based on their correct view of the party and the leader and a revolutionary view of the organization. The view of the organization is an attitude toward and view of the party organization. Party members are revolutionaries who voluntarily joined the party without anyone else's urging or request. To a party member, the organization is as valuable as his life. Therefore, all party members treasure the party organization and treat it with dignity.

To the WPK members, the view of the organization is not simply the organization's view or position. This is a lofty ideological sentiment, combining the endless loyalty and utmost devotion, to uphold and be loyal to the great leader who is at the top of the party.

The working class party is a vanguard unit of the working class and working masses, organizationally united and ideologically centered on the leader. A party separate from the leader cannot exist. The leader is the center of a social and political group. The party is founded, consolidated, and developed under the leadership of the leader; the political life of the revolutionaries becomes brilliant in the embrace of the leader; and a true life is advanced.

The party is a united body of party organizations centered on the leader. The party organizations at all levels carry out activities to realize the leader's ideology and leadership. The leader represents the party organizations. Extending from the party cell to the party Central Committee, the leader firmly stands at the center of the party. Therefore, to uphold the party is to ardently admire the leader, hold him aloft, and be loyal and dutiful to him.

The revolutionary view of the organization is a thorough revolutionary spirit to uphold the party with endless loyalty and to be loyal and dutiful to the great leader and great leader [yongdoja].

Since the revolutionary view of the leader is the nucleus, the view of the organization encourages and promotes our party members to lead valuable and worthwhile lives for the party and the revolution and enhance the lofty title as the chuche-type of the communist revolutionary.

Establishing a revolutionary view of the organization is a most important demand for the party members to endlessly glorify the lofty political life.

The political life of the people who devoted their lives to the revolutionary struggle is linked with the party organization. Centered on the leader, the party is a political organization which carries out a pivotal function in uniting the popular masses into one social and political organic body. Apart from the party organizations, no one can unite with the leader organizationally or ideologically nor posses an immortal social and political life.

Even though one has a wealth of knowledge and extraordinary talent, if he is not united with the leader organizationally and ideologically, he cannot have the political life entrusted by the leader.

Being apart from the party organization means the end of a political life. Therefore, true revolutionaries must be deeply aware of the preciousness of the organization, face the organization with dignity, and lay down an ironclad rule always to live and struggle according to the organization.

Our party members praise the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song as their father and our party as a motherly party out of their firm conviction that the party organizations centered on the leader constitute the mother of the sociopolitical organic body that raises and protects them as true revolutionaries.

To our party members, the party organization is a protector that takes care of their political life and guides them so that they can glorify it to the end.

The political life of the party members is to be retained and made to shine through party life. Party life is political life capable of fulfilling its demand nurtured by the party members.

Party members' political life is at once an organizational, ideological life designed to fulfill their obligation and help them play their role as the proprietor of the state and society.

It is through party life that party members lead the most valuable and rewarding life as the chuche-type communist revolutionaries.

The party organizations are the support points that organize and guide party members' party life. Party members fulfill their mission in the process of implementing the revolutionary duty assigned by the party as part of the party organization while receiving guidance and assistance from the party organizations.

In the course of leading the party life, party members are to come to deeper understanding about the party's and leader's greatness as well as the sagaciousness of their leadership and cherish their conviction that they will loyally honor the leadership provided by the party and leader.

Party members who are armed with a revolutionary outlook on organization cherish in their hearts firm faith in the party. This always guides them so that they can glorify the political life given to them by the leader. Because of this, they always solve problems by completely depending on the party organizations and make conscious efforts to be under the party organizations' guidance and control.

The party organizations are revolutionary educational schools that provide party members with spiritual food necessary to sustain their political life.

Only when they are armed with the ideology of the party and leader can party members unite with the party ideologically and keep their political life as party members. It is through party ideological life that party members can absorp the leader's ideology and make it their own flesh and blood.

Without exception, party members who have a correct outlook on organization regard as part of their daily life their sincere participation in the study to arm themselves with the party's and leader's ideology and in the organizational life.

Party members as such always remember that they have nobody but the party and leader to look to and think and act only according to the party's ideology and intentions.

Men are bound to analyze and judge events based on their knowledge. Party members who cherish the party's and leader's revolutionary ideology as their own flesh and blood are bound to foster a firm revolutionary outlook on the world, do work following the dictate of their goals, and share the same fate with the party under any adverse circumstances.

Historical experience show that anybody who neglects the party organizational life and lacks of a correct outlook on the organization will find their own brain rust and degenerate.

The only way to glorify the lofty political life given by the party and leader and to lead a valuable and rewarding life as the permanent companion of the party lies in valuing the party organizations as the mother body of life, which treats them respectfully and sincerely leads the party life.

To foster a revolutionary outlook on organization is another important call for party members to defend the party's cohesion and unity and harden it even further.

Our party has now achieved the most solid and viable unity that no force on earth can break and that is capable of overcoming any kind of difficulties. Our party's unity is a single-minded ideological unity and a single-minded unity of action with which the entire party, united as it is firmly around the leader based on the chuche idea, moves as one.

For this unity to be firmly defended and hardened, it is imperative for all the party members to foster a revolutionary outlook on the organization.

The party is a political organization in which the party member masses who share the same ideology and will are united with each other.

In order to firmly organize the party organizationally and ideologically and to develop its unity and cohesion, it is imperative for all the party members who form the party to arm themselves with a single ideology and act as one according to a single rule. To ensure the uniformity of the ideology and leadership is a basic principle that must be constantly adhered to in the course of hardening and developing the party's unity.

Unity fashioned of the same nature as temporary interests or working relationship, not of the identical and uniform nature of ideology, is like a castle built on sand and is, therefore, bound to break up. For this reason, in order to defend the party's unity and cohesion and to firmly ensure the uniformity of the ideology and leadership inside the party, it is imperative for all the party members to foster a revolutionary outlook on organization.

To foster a revolutionary outlook on organization means that party members must always think and act only according to the dictate of the leader's ideology and intentions under any circumstances. The party members must establish a revolutionary mettle by which they move in conformity with the party's organizational principle.

Only when the revolutionary outlook on organization is fostered is it possible to harden the party's unity and cohesion by better putting into practice the principle of centralization of democratic power.

As the party's organizational principle, the centralization of democratic power is a scheme to ensure the uniformity of the ideology and leadership in the party construction and party activity.

Giving full play to democracy inside the party, although significant in demonstrating the party member masses' sense of being the masters, their sense of obligation, and creative zeal, should be realized only on the basis of firmly ensuring the unity of ideology, consciousness, and action.

It is impossible to harden the unity and cohesion of the party if it tolerates a host of different political views and allows all the members to champion their own ideology and thoughts. So, democracy in the party should be made to work toward giving full play to the revolutionary zeal and creative enthusiasm of all the party members who form the party in a way that works to realize the goals set by the party.

Toward this end, the party should unite with centralized power without delay. Essentially, the centralization of power requires that the entire party be made to think and move as one by integrating the will of the broad range of the party member masses into one greater whole.

Just as it is impossible to conceive of the centralization of power far removed from democracy, there can be no such thing as democracy far removed from the centralization of power, when it comes to the party of the working class.

Our party is a great guide that is not only fully responsible for the fate and future of our people but also guides them. Without exception, all the lines and policies developed by our party reflect the desire and demands of all the people in the country and residing in them is the entire party's organizational will.

Based as it is on the correct understanding of our party's historic mission and role, the revolutionary outlook on organization is a revolutionary stance to honor the party and entrust oneself to the party on one's own.

Only when the outlook on organization is correctly established can all the party members act uniformly in conformity with a single ideology and a single rule according to the principle of the centralization of democratic power.

The revolutionary outlook on organization is a mighty propulsive power that enables our party members to look to the party and leader and to nobody else, to completely depend on the party, and to fight under the party and leader.

Party members who are armed with a correct outlook on organization regards it as their primary requirement to report to the party on everything arising in their own work and life and to keep working under the guidance provided by the party. Party members as such thoroughly observe the order and rules instituted inside the party and participate in the party life in their own right.

Only when the entire party is filled with the view of the organization can democracy be demonstrated highly. When the party members have the revolutionary view of the organization to which to wholly entrust themselves, they all will positively present creative opinions and fully exercise their rights at party meetings as required by party regulations.

The view of the organization is a matter of opinions and positions on the organization, not a matter of relations, with any specific individual official taking charge of the organization. Because the only center representing the party organizations is the leader, when all the party members act as required by their view of the organization, individuals' subjective views or arbitrary decisions will not exist in the party, and the principle of collective guidance will be implemented thoroughly. In this way, the entire party will move under the single idea and leadership, and steel-like unity and cohesion centering on the leader can be preserved as the most precious feature. Having the view of the organization is also a firm guarantee in which the party members can unconditionally, completely implement the party's lines and policies and its decisions and instructions.

Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has pointed out: The party members must become the absolute supporters of the leader's teachings and the party's plans and vanguard fighters in the struggle to implement them.

The party's lines and policies and its decisions and instructions are our party's collective will and a major guideline that all the officials and party members must adhere to steadfastly. They are strategies, tactics, and specific ways to successfully carry out our revolution and construction.

Unconditionally accepting the party's policies and implementing them by all means is the party's most important duty and revolutionary obligation. The party members receive tasks to implement the party's policies from the party and sum up the status of their implementation for the party. To the party members, revolutionary activities are a struggle to implement the party's decisions and instructions.

The party members' revolutionary activities are unthinkable apart from the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary tasks. Also, fulfilling one's revolutionary duties is unthinkable apart from the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary tasks. The revolutionary view of the organization makes the party members accept the party's decisions and instructions as the noblest demand in life, deeply perceive the great love and trust of the party and the leader, and devotedly and creatively implement the party's policies.

To the party members, the revolutionary view of the organization is the demonstration of loyalty toward the party and the leader, and it is demonstrated not in words but in the practical struggle to implement the party's decisions and instructions. Those who steadfastly defend and thoroughly implement the party's policies are genuine party members and genuine loyalists and dutiful children who devotedly struggle for the party and the leader.

Our party members take responsibility for progress in the revolutionary tasks for the party and the leader. Different party members carry out different tasks. However, all the tasks are honorable revolutionary duties to implement the plans and intentions of the party and the leader. The party members who have the revolutionary view of the organization are not choosy about difficult or easy jobs in implementing the revolutionary tasks. Considering the party's assigned tasks as the most just and vital, irrespective of whether conditions for those tasks are favorable or not, and unconditionally implementing them without delay or deviation is the WPK members' noble trait.

It is inconceivable for the genuine party members trying to devote everything to the party to think of individual interests apart from the interests of the party and the revolution. Even though the people live life each day, they should live a proud and worthwhile life.

Because the party members are revolutionaries, their honor and worth lie not in enjoying individual pleasure but in devotedly struggling for society and the group. The people, who entrust the party and the leader with their life and seek genuine worth in life from pride in struggling for the interests of the party and the leader, are the genuine party members who have a firm outlook on revolutionary organization.

Our all functionaries and party members should be conscious that devoting themselves to thoroughly carrying out the revolutionary task assigned by the party is the way for fulfilling their duty as the party members and for glorifying a true life. They should also devote all strength and wisdom to the struggle to carry out the party's decision and direction.

There have been an incalculable number of genuine chuche-type revolutionaries in our revolution who have discharged loyalty and filial duty to the party and the leader. Even though their struggle careers have differed, they have been, without exception, the genuine revolutionaries having a firm outlook on the revolutionary organization.

Practical experiences confirm that only when one has the right outlook on organization can one be loyal to the party and the leader to the end and glorify a noble political life. The anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs were models of the chuche-type communist revolutionaries having a firm outlook on the revolutionary organization. Organizational life to the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs was the course not only for steadily cultivating ideology but for revolutionary training to discharge loyalty to the respected and beloved General Kim Il-song.

When Comrade Kim Chong-suk, anti-Japanese woman hero and indomitable and indefatigable communist revolutionary fighter, was apprehended by the enemies, she resolutely kept the secret of organization. She said: Rest easy. I will die. However, the organization will be alive. I send 2 won, all my property. I hope that this will be used for the organization.

The noble trait of Comrade Kim Chong-suk clearly shows how high the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs' concept of managing the organization was.

Because the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters had the outlook of the revolutionary organization, they could fight to firmly defend their honor and dignity as the revolutionary fighters of the respected and beloved General Kim Il-song. They could firmly safeguard the unity and solidarity of the revolutionary ranks.

Our functionaries and party members should firmly prepare themselves to be genuine chuche-type communist revolutionaries by positively learning from the outlook on the revolutionary organization of the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs.

Our glorious party is the organizer and guide of all our people's victories. The fate and future of our fatherland and the future of the socialism of our own style entirely depend on our party's leadership. To further strengthen our party and increase its leadership role by all means, the all party members should have a firm organizational outlook to share their fate with the party to the end.

To our revolutionary fighters, nothing is more valuable and honorable than the title of the glorious WPK's party members who have upheld the great leader and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Leading the party's organizational life with the title as the revolutionary fighters of the party and the leader is the great pride and the greatest happiness of our all party members.

All functionaries and party members should loyally uphold the party and the leader, should entirely entrust the party with their life, and should indomitably fight with a firm revolutionary organizational outlook to share life and death with the party. Herein contains the wellspring of our party's invincible might and the firm guarantee of our revolutionary victory.

KCNA Reviews 28 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK2812063091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry messages of greetings sent by Comrade Jiang Zemin, chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, and Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN in an editorial congratulates Comrade Kim Chong-il on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, and papers convey news that mass meetings and rallies were held across the country on this occasion.

NODONG SINMUN gives an account of a seminar held to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of "*On the Thorough Implementation of the Principles of Socialist Education*," a classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

It devotes nearly one whole page to an article explaining that the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea is a sure guarantee for the development and prosperity of the nation.

Thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was conveyed to the teachers and students of the automation engineering faculty of Kim Chaek University of Technology who have successfully completed the automation of a system of Dressing Plant No. 3 of the Komdok Mining Complex, says the paper.

Econews of papers includes reports about innovation being effected in the Komdok Mining Complex.

Papers inform the readers that the DPRK officially recognized the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Bangladeshi Prime Minister met the Korean ambassador to her country, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper runs an article about this year's vigorous struggle South Korean students and people have waged against outside forces, dictatorship and for national reunification, finding the way of their life and struggle in the great chuche idea.

Echoed in papers are voices at home and abroad welcoming and supporting the agreement adopted between the North and the South of Korea.

An article of NODONG SINMUN exposes that workers are forced to do slave labour owing to the fascist labour law and measures in South Korea.

The Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY and TASS reported the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement regarding the question of signing the nuclear safeguards accord, says the daily.

The paper informs the readers of functions held in Rwanda and Zaire on day of the socialist constitution of the DPRK.

Appearing in the paper is what foreigners said in praise of the advantages of the Korean socialist system.

More than one million people visited the hometown of Chairman Mao Zedong in China this year, and the Indonesian president called for independent economic development of the country, according to the paper.

Papers observe the national day of the Nepalese people.

NODONG SINMUN tells in an article that the U.S.-led imperialists have more frantically stepped up their policy of strength to gratify their ambition for world supremacy this year.

KCNA Reviews 30 Dec NODONG SINMUN

SK3012060591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang December 30 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today frontpages news that the great leader President Kim Il-song sent educational aid fund and stipends to the Korean children in Japan, greeting the new year 1992.

The paper carries a message of greetings to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from Blaise Compaore, president and head of state of Burkina Faso, upon the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA].

It carries congratulatory messages to Comrade Kim Chong-il from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and commander-in-chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces, and Edouard Karemera, national secretary of the National Republican Movement for the Democracy and Development of Rwanda, on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il sent gifts to twice labour heroine Chong Chun-sil, director of the Chonchon County commercial management office in Chagang Province, and arranged a table for her on her 50th birthday, says the daily.

The paper informs the readers that the two-part feature film "Filial Daughter" was released by the Korean film studio. Its prototype is Chong Chun-sil who has devotedly worked for people.

President Kim Il-song received solidarity messages from foreign seamen supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification, according to the paper.

Lectures were given in Portugal and Bangladesh on the answers of President Kim Il-song to questions raised by the director of the Iwanami Shoten, Publishers of Japan, says the paper.

It reports that mass rallies and meetings were held in different parts of the country to warmly hail the election of Comrade Kim Jong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

An article of the daily says that the working people and KPA soldiers are renewing their unshakable resolution to accomplish the revolutionary cause of cuche at an early date by upholding the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the KPA, with loyalty and filial piety.

It dedicates an article to the fifth anniversary of the publication of President Kim Il-song's immortal classical work "*For the Complete Victory of Socialism*" (December 30, 1986).

An article of the daily says that the adoption of an inter-Korean agreement at the fifth North-South high-level talks is a victory of our just line of collaboration and unity. It conveys the world reaction to this agreement.

The South Korean news columns of the daily includes report that nearly 13 million people of South Korea signed their names against the liberalization of American rice import.

The paper carries a commentator's article denouncing the Japanese Government authorities who adopted a "plan" to submit to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency a "resolution" to be laid before the U.N. Security Council in order to force the DPRK to "unconditionally sign and implement" the nuclear safeguards accord.

It informs the readers that a session of the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba was held, a book introducing Deng Xiaoping's idea of building the army was published in China, many people in China visited the mausoleum of Mao Zedong on the occasion of his 98th birth anniversary to pay him homage and the government of the Philippines demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. forces.

The paper introduces the endeavours of Laos, Thailand and Indonesia to build a new prosperous Asia.

It observes the independence day of the Sudan.

An article of the paper says that the way for the developing countries to tide over the economic difficulties lies in opposing the predatory policy of the imperialists and actively developing South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self- reliance.

South Korea

Delegates Discuss N-S Denuclearization Accord

SK2812050191 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Delegates of the North and South met today at the House of Peace on our side of Panmunjom and discussed the adoption of a joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, but failed to reach an agreement. They were unable to narrow differences over the nuclear inspection issue, so the two sides agreed to hold the third round of delegates' contacts to continue negotiations on the nuclear issue at Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom on 31 December.

In today's contact, our side demanded that the North Korean side announce that it would sign the nuclear safeguards agreement and take ratification procedures for it by 15 January 1992, but the North Korean side refused, saying that since the issue of signing the nuclear safeguards agreement is a matter between itself and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], South Korea should not intervene.

Our side also informed the North Korean side that by 31 January without fail a simultaneous demonstration inspection should be conducted of the North and the South on the two civilian and military nuclear facilities mutually designated by North and South Korea, apart from the IAEA nuclear inspection, pursuant to the forthcoming joint denuclearization declaration, and that if this is not realized, the South side will have to suspend halting the Team Spirit exercise.

Agree on Nuclear Pact Preamble

SK2812084091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0814 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea inched bit closer to signing an agreement for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula Saturday at the second working-level talks and promised to meet again Dec. 31.

The two sides agreed on the preamble and two of the seven articles proposed—using nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes and pledge not to own nuclear reprocessing or uranium enrichment facilities.

They also agreed to form a joint committee on nuclear issues within one month after they put the agreement into effect, Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the South Korean side, said after the talks.

"I can cautiously say that chances of reaching an agreement at the next talks is rather high," Yi said in a press conference.

"We presented our new proposal, and we expect North Korea to review it fully before our next meeting for even further progress," he said.

Five officials from the two Koreas met Thursday [26 December] for the first inter-Korean nuclear negotiations where North Korea presented its revised proposal that the two sides promise not to own nuclear reprocessing or uranium enrichment facilities, removing a major stumbling block to bilateral negotiations.

South Korea reciprocated with its own revised proposal Saturday that deletes an article for elimination of chemical and biological weapons but adds an article demanding North Korea conclude a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and accept full-scope international inspection of all nuclear-related facilities and materials.

The two sides are near consensus on Article 1 where they pledge not to test, manufacture, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons. North Korea did not object to dropping the word "introduce" from its proposal, according to Yi.

Seoul and Pyongyang, however, remained apart on military exercise and simultaneous pilot inspection.

While South Korea championed mutual pilot inspection on military and civilian installations, North Korea insisted on inspection solely to verify withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from the South Korean territory.

North Korea insisted on prohibition of any military exercise that simulates nuclear war, aimed specifically at halting the annual South Korea-U.S. joint military maneuver "Team Spirit."

Seoul could not accept these two demands because embracing them would be a virtual admittance that it has introduced U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and that Team Spirit is a nuclear war practice, Spokesman Yi said.

"North Korea's motive in including these two points obviously lie in getting such admittance," he said.

South Korea is sticking by its article that demands North Korea's speedy conclusion of the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA.

North Korean officials repeated the signing was a matter to be settled strictly between Pyongyang and the IAEA, and the Seoul government "understands" such reaction, Yi said.

"But we stress again that North Korea needs to sign, ratify and implement the accord in order to make clear to us and the rest of the world its sincere commitment to nuclear-free Korean peninsula," the spokesman emphasized.

The northern officials said they would soon sign the safeguards accord and therefore was against having a related article in the agreement, Yi explained.

"But what is important now is the date North Korea actually signs the accord, not the date North Korea promises to sign it by," he said.

The spokesman hinted Seoul's flexibility in simultaneous pilot inspection, saying, "conditions have changed considerably since the time we made the proposal."

The main motive in proposing the simultaneous inspection was in opening North Korea's nuclear reprocessing facilities to outside inspection, Yi pointed out.

"But North Korea now says it will not possess the reprocessing and enrichment installments," he said.

Russia To Reexamine Defense Treaty With DPRK

SK2812025991 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Oleg Sokolov, ambassador of the Russian Republic to the ROK, revealed that the Russian Government will reexamine the DPRK- USSR Defense Treaty, which the Soviet Union concluded with North Korea.

At a seminar held this morning under the auspices of the Korea Economy and Science Research Institute, Ambassador Sokolov said that Russia will abide by all existing treaties and agreements which the Soviet Union concluded. Russia's leadership and its parliament, however, will reexamine the DPRK-USSR Defense Treaty, which the Soviet Union concluded with North Korea in 1961, in conformity with the changed international situation.

Regarding the payment of loans given to the Soviet Union, Ambassador Sokolov pointed out that 11 republics which belong to the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] have a simultaneous obligation to pay the loans. He added that the Russian Republic will fulfill the obligation to pay the loans as the nation which took over all of the international obligations of the Soviet Union.

Ambassador Sokolov said that because 80 percent of the trade volume between the ROK and former Soviet Union is carried out by Russia, he hopes that economic cooperation between the two countries will expand further and that, in particular, ROK enterprises will participate in the joint development of natural resources, including gas and fuel.

Government Recognizes 10 Former Soviet Republics

SK3012022991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea extended diplomatic recognition Monday to 10 of the 11 former Soviet republics that joined the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Korea, which recognized the Russian Federation on Friday, will soon establish formal ties with the 10 countries and plans to open consuls-general there, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The 10 are Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tadzhikistan, Kyrghyzia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Moldova.

Seoul is yet to recognize Georgia since it has not joined the Commonwealth of Independent States, but set up diplomatic ties with the three Baltic states months ago.

A government delegation will go to Moscow early next year to grant diplomatic normalization, according to ministry officials.

Korea is considering opening an embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistanm or Alma-ata, Kazakhistan.

Government To Request Russia Assume Repayments

SK2812053291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0517 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will formally request the Russian Federation to take over the repayment guarantees for a 3 billion-dollar economic aid package promised to the former Soviet Union, a senior Finance Ministry official said Saturday.

The government had decided to suspend part of the tied-loan portion of the package until repayment guarantees were renewed by Vneshekonombank, now under Russian control, said Yi Hwan-kyon, planning and management director-general.

The decision was in line with Korea's recognition of Russia's independence, he said.

The ministry will ask the Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Korea and the Korea Development Bank to write official letters to the former Soviet bank demanding that the payment guarantees be transferred to Russia.

Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee, signed the latest payment guarantees after the failed coup in Moscow in August, promising that the government replacing the Soviet Union would take responsibility for them, Yi said.

It was therefore natural that Russia took over the payment guarantees, Yi said.

So far, Ex-Im bank has approved 200 million dollars of tied loans, or 25 percent of the 800 million-dollar total promised this year.

Government To Sign Chemical Weapons Prohibition

SK3012114891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1129 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to sign an international convention on prohibiting chemical weapons as soon as it is concluded in the U.N. Conference on Disarmament (CD), government sources said Monday.

The government, the sources said, recently convened a meeting of relevant officials from the Foreign, Defense, Trade-Industry and Science-Technology Ministries and the Agency for National Security Planning and decided to make laws and draw up administrative measures necessary for fulfilling the terms of the convention.

The meeting discussed measures to minimize the impact the nation's signing of the convention would have on the domestic industries.

The pact, which is widely expected to be concluded next year, is likely to oblige all signatories to file reports on all chemical weaponry, its manufacturing facilities and related research institutes in their possession within 30 days of signing it and start to dismantle them the following year for a complete abolition in 10 years, or by 2002.

The convention is expected to spell out strict restrictions on the use and trade of chemical substances normally needed for manufacturing chemical weapons, sources said.

The government has decided to provide domestic chemical businesses with lists of chemical substances of which use or trade is feared to be banned by the envisaged accord.

President No Tae-u, when announcing on Nov. 8 a proposal for a non-nuclear Korea, made clear that South Korea would join in international endeavors to eradicate biochemical weapons.

Ministry To Counter U.S. Pressures on Market

SK3012023991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0153 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Korean officials will stress that Korea is liberalizing the financial market on a gradual basis and has freed interest rates and opens the stock market this week to counter possible pressure to open the financial sector when U.S. President George Bush is here early next month.

Finance Ministry sources said it was also agreed over the weekend in a meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Yi

Yong-man, that they would explain to U.S. visitors that there had already been considerable liberalization in the foreign exchange field.

The Finance Ministry expects U.S. business leaders accompanying Bush to make detailed demands on opening the Korean market. While U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is not among them, they do include representatives of American Express, Merrill Lynch and American International Group.

The visitors are likely to demand that Korea expand imports on credit, abolish discrimination against foreign banks in the call money market, widen interest rate liberalization and speed up stock market opening.

One official said the government would stress that expansion of imports on credit was impossible because Korea has a massive trade deficit with the United States.

On stock market opening, the government has a schedule for expansion on a gradual basis, and on establishment of exclusive insurance agents, the government will make full study before reaching a decision, he said.

U.S. Influence on Trade, Politics To Increase

SK2912120391 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 29 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] "U.S. influence" on the ROK is expanding not only in trade but also in overall politics and diplomacy.

Such a phenomenon became more remarkable since the center of world politics was completely moved to the United States after the Gulf war and collapse of the Soviet Union this year. It is feared that when such a phenomenon is deepened, the traditional ROK-U.S. friendship and cooperative relations can be damaged.

The U.S. pressure for opening markets of the ROK including the rice market will be applied in full scale on the occasion of President Bush's visit to the ROK on 5 January 1992.

When President Bush visits the ROK, 11 U.S. business representatives including James Robinson, president of American Express, and David Roderick, honorary chairman of USX (Steel), will accompany him. This is the first occasion for the U.S. President to be accompanied by such a large group of U.S. businessmen in his visit to the ROK. Relevant government officials view that the large-scale U.S. businessmen's accompanying the U.S. President to the ROK means that U.S. pressure will increase for opening the overall economy including areas of agricultural products, automobiles, finance and services.

On the other hand, the United States has not clearly shown its intention to support the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and Vietnam. Thus, our government is reported to have been embarrassed by this.

On 29 December, a high-ranking government official said that "although Vietnam officially expressed its willingness to establish diplomatic relations with the ROK a long time ago, our side is delaying the signing of the protocol for diplomatic relations by taking the U.S. position into account." He also said that "the United States is unhappy with the fact that North Korea's nuclear issue was negligently dealt with during the fifth round of North-South high-level talks. Under this condition, our government is not in the position to lightly establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam."

The United States recently expressed its strong hope that the ROK join the international efforts for sanctions against Libya in connection with the bombing incident of a U.S. Pan-Am aircraft in 1988.

A relevant government official revealed that "the United States officially conveyed its investigation documents proving that the bombing of the U.S. Pan-Am flight was committed by Libyan terrorists who were involved with the Libyan Government." He added that "this amounts to a U.S. request for the ROK's joining in sanctions against Libya. However, the government is agonizing over this due to its existing close economic relations with Libya."

The United States is also hoping that the ROK will keep in step with it in extending economic assistance and cooperation to the Soviet Union after the Union's collapse.

A relevant government official revealed that "U.S. Secretary of State, James Baker, will convene a conference of countries for economic assistance to the Soviet Union around 22 January 1992 in Washington. The ROK will also attend this conference." This official added that the United States hopes that Western countries, including the ROK, will link their economic cooperation and assistance to the Soviet Union with U.S.-Soviet relations and with U.S. policy on Soviet Union.

As for ongoing North-South negotiations on the nuclear issue, the United States seemed to want the government to take a more resolute position toward negotiations. Thus, our side showed a stronger position during the second North-South nuclear-related contact at Panmunjom on 28 December by moving the article on "North Korea's signing of nuclear safeguards accord and acceptance of nuclear inspection," which was included in the preface of the "joint declaration on denuclearization," into its main text. The relevant government officials observe that this was a result of the government's awareness of the United States. Admitting that "expansion of U.S. influence on Northeast Asia after the collapse of the Soviet Union is a clear phenomenon," a relevant government official said that "North-South relations will show improvement, and normalization of North Korea-U.S. relations and North Korea-Japan relations is expected next year and thereafter. Thus, the building of close partner-relations between the ROK and the United States will be the greatest task in our diplomatic activities."

Petitioners Protest U.S. Effort To Open Market

SK2712015991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0140 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 (YONHAP)—A petition weighing 4.5 tons and bearing 12.93 million signatures opposing U.S. pressure to open South Korea's rice market will be delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on Friday afternoon, the National Agricultural Cooperatives Federation (NACF) said.

Over 2,000 farmers, housewives, students and NACF officials will march some 4 kilometers through downtown Seoul from NACF headquarters to the U.S. Embassy after a rally at the federation building, a NACF spokesman said.

They will be led by a traditional farmers' band and four oxcarts carrying the tons of paper bearing the names of the protesters. Some 31 percent of the entire South Korean population put their names on the petition, the spokesman said.

Police have given permission for the rally and march.

He said separate statements objecting to rice market opening would be sent to U.S. President George Bush and Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In a message released in the morning, the rally organizers said they could not allow "tariffication without exception" of farm products or "minimum market access" of foreign rice.

All nations had to grow and secure basic grains by themselves and farmers in agricultural importing countries should not be sacrificed for the sake of their counterparts in farm exporting countries, the message said.

A pre-released resolution urges the South Korean government to stick to its position not to allow rice imports and to seek to fully reflect the peculiarities of agriculture in the course of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations.

* Nuclear Tactics, Strategy Reexamined

922C0023A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 2 Oct 91 p 2

[Article by reporter Kim Chang-su: "Timetable for Withdrawal of USFK Could Change"]

[Text] The measure to withdraw the tactical nuclear arms of the U.S. Forces in Korea [USFK] has, first of all, become a "nucleus" of the changes to occur in the strategic environment of the Korean peninsula.

What is the direction of the ROK-U.S. joint defense system? Are there any changes in the plans to reduce the strength of USFK and in the procedure of transferring its operational authority rights after the reduction? Will the Korean military strategy itself remain unchanged?

These are the questions that spring up since Bush issued a statement on nuclear weapons reduction.

Of course, withdrawal of tactical nuclear arms alone is not likely to lead to a significant change in the "military map" of the Korean peninsula.

It is true that the USFK's tactical nuclear weapons along with the NCND [neither confirm nor deny] policy have served thus far as a war deterrent. This war deterence was maintained because they were used largely as a psychological weapon.

Thus, most military analysts predict that as long as the United States maintains its nuclear umbrella policy in Korea, the concerns over the decreasing power of the war deterrent in the Korean peninsula, just because of the reduction of tactical nuclear arms, would be insignificant.

Value of Military Use Diminishes

Particularly, analysts say, under the circumstances where the military value of the ground nuclear arms is diminishing as a result of the development of high-tech weapons systems, tactical nuclear arms no longer play a significant role in the military strategy.

Such a prediction and analysis can be seen, at first, in the viewpoints of the defense authorities who read the background of Bush's recent announcement of nuclear policy.

In connection with this, during the parliamentary inspection of government offices on 28 September, National Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said that "Abolition of the nuclear arms does not mean the weakening or loss of the United States' deterrent power to control nuclear arms." Regarding the background of the recent measure, he said, "Basically, it was due to a military judgment that the ground and marine nuclear arms have lost their strategic value due to the epoch-making development of high-tech weapons and early-warning systems."

In other words, the experience in the Gulf War has proven that the military value of tactical nuclear arms can be substituted by a high-tech weapons system in local or limited warfare. In view of this, it can be said that the recent measure is not an indication of an immediate and full-scale change in national defense strategies. Military analysts agree that it will inevitably result in long- and short-term changes, however, that must fill the "power vacuum" resulting from the abolition of the tactical nuclear arms that served as a "military balances" between the South and the North.

Revision of the "5027 Plan"

A military analyst forecasts the first possible change to occur in the ROK-U.S. Joint Defense Plan, known as the "5027 Plan." It is said that the withdrawal of tactical nuclear arms will inevitably require a revision of the "Fire Power Support Plan" contained in the Annex of the 5027 Plan and also a revision of the "Special Weapons Support Plan" contained in the attachment of the Annex, which describes nuclear arms support. It is known that in accordance with the declaration of "nuclear umbrella support," which was adopted at the annual ROK-U.S. Security Council Meeting (SCM) in the 1970's, both Korea and the United States have discussed issues of deployment and use of the USFK's nuclear arms. A reexamination of the overall nuclear arms applications is expected to follow.

It is also predicted that a future SCM or other high-level policy meeting will reexamine the timing of deployment and the size of the U.S. reinforcement, which is included in the defense force against North Korea.

Both the ROK and the United States tentatively agreed on the Wartime Host Nation's Support (WHNS) pact on 25 July, and set up provisions for munitions supplies for U.S. reinforcements to be dispatched in case of warfare. Because of the diminishing power of the war deterrent caused by a withdrawal of the existing tactical nuclear arms, however, it has become more necessary to employ a highly mobile operation in the deployment of troops and the support system of equipment and facilities.

In this regard, a concerned authority of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, "We are presently reviewing the articles concerning a timely deployment of troops, which must be renewed every two years, according to the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Pact, to strengthen the scale and mobility of troops." He said that this issue will be discussed at the annual ROK-U.S. SCM in November.

In addiition, military analysts point out that the Combined Defense Improvement Project (CDIP), which is being carried out as a USFK's support task, will also likely be revised in terms of strengthening the war deterrent.

Following the possible changes in the ROK-U.S. joint defense system is the plan for a three-step withdrawal of the USFK and the issue of transferring the strategic control rights, all of which are based on the Nunn-Warner Amendment.

Role of Nuclear Inspection

A concerned authority of the Defense Ministry said, "Withdrawal of the tactical nuclear arms will unlikely cause any immediate changes in the large framework of the USFK's withdrawal plan, but adjustments are possible—such as delaying the withdrawal—in order to reinforce the diminishing power of the war deterrent."

He added that the issue of transferring the operational authority, too, could be decided based upon the progress in the reinforcement of the ROK's conventional defense force, and therefore, the original timetable could change.

It is also highly probable that the Korean military could independently reinforce or develop plans for a short-term emergency.

Another authority of the Defense Ministry said, "It has become more necessary to reinforce present strategies for a short-term emergency while doubling the ability to reinforce the U.S. troops." He added, "Part of the short-term plans to reinforce the military capacity will change, including converting the conventional weapons into a high-tech system."

The possibility of all these strategic military changes, however, could depend on North Korea's willingness to allow nuclear inspections, which still remains a key issue, and on the resulting circumstances for negotiations between the United States and North Korea and between South Korea and North Korea.

No Tae-u Meets Malaysian Prime Minister 27 Dec

SK2712050891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0441 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u chatted with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed over lunch at the presidential office Friday, a presidential spokesman said.

The Malaysian leader is on an unofficial visit to Seoul Dec. 26- 29. The two met at the United Nations in September.

Joint Oil Project With Indonesia 'Failure'

SK3012100291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0935 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Kodeco Energy Co., the Korean-side contractor of the West Madura oil exploration project, has rejected planned government support, saying there were unacceptable conditions attached to the offer, officials at the Energy and Resources Ministry said Monday.

After 10 years of joint development by Kodeco and Indonesia's state-run Pertamina, the Energy and Resources Ministry announced Dec. 2 that the project was a failure.

In an effort to stop oil field operations but continue a gas development project, the ministry offered to provide Kodeco 19.3 million dollars from the petroleum business fund—14 million dollars for settling liabilities incurred during management and control of the state-run Korea Petroleum Development Corp. (Pedco) and 5.3 million dollars for resuming operation on gas tracks in the Madura offshore block that has been stalled by a gas leak since May.

The government's conditions were that Pedco be given the power to sell Kodeco's partnership if Kodeco were unable to continue the project due to financial problems.

Kodeco holds 37.5 percent of the project, Pedco 12.5 percent and Pertamina the remaining 50 percent, respectively.

Upon the rejection, the ministry canceled its support offer and told Pedco to break its management contract with Kodeco. It also instructed Pedco to withdraw its management team from Kodeco and notified Pertamina, ministry officials said.

Kodeco says it plans to sue Pedco for liabilities and costs incurred since Pedco began to participate in management of the Madura oil development project in November 1986. Kodeco is also seeking a new partner to replace Pedco.

The project began in 1981, when Kodeco and Pertamina set up a 50- 50 joint venture to explore and exploit oil in the Madura area for 30 years ending 2011.

Initial production came in 1985, with daily production of 18,230 barrels. Production dropped to one-seventh the following year and now amounts to 900 barrels a day, and is likely to fall to 800 bpd [barrels per day] next year, a ministry official said.

In November 1986, Kodeco invited Pedco to buy 25 percent of its stake and the Madura offshore project has been 12.5 percent owned by the Pedco ever since.

The project has cost a total of 389.4 million dollars. The Korean partners put in 217.3 million dollars, including government aid of 123 million dollars, and Pertamina invested 172.1 million dollars, according to the ministry.

Korea Telecom To Aid Romania, Sri Lanka

SK3012082091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0734 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30, (OANA-YONHAP)—Korea Telecom will give Romania and Sri Lanka a free telecommunications technology service to promote exports of communications technology and equipment, a company spokesman said Monday.

This brings to three the number of developing nations receiving grant-type aid from Korea Telecom, which exchanged memorandums of understanding on technology support with Romania and Sri Lanka in November and carried out a preliminary study this month.

"Seven or eight experts will be dispatched to these countries in January to provide the service," he said.

Company officials will provide training for the modernization of Romania's communications, including digitalization of the communications network in Bucharest, by July in 1992.

They will suggest effective management methods and ideas for the existing communications network in Colombo so Sri Lanka can expand its communications facilities, the spokesman said.

Korea Telecom gave technological support to Bangladesh for its long-term project of telephone installation from October 1989 to July 1990.

No Tae-u Seeks To Harmonize Laws, N-S Accord

SK3012134291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1307 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u on Monday instructed his secretaries to study ways to revise and replenish domestic laws to the effect that they conform with the inter-Korean agreement signed on Dec. 13.

Presiding over the year's last meeting of his secretaries, No also ordered the establishment of a special inter-ministry organization to be in charge of the task.

No produced such instructions upon being briefed that the government was facing the need to amend domestic laws in preparation for the effectuation of the Dec. 13 inter-Korean accord.

Kim Yong-il, senior secretary for justice and inspection told the meeting that the government was feeling the need to promptly revise some existing laws or draw up new laws in case the inter-Korean agreement is translated into concrete action.

Kim said the National Security Law does not contradict the inter-Korean accord in principle because it deals with crimes linked to not only North Korea but all anti-state organizations and countries and because North Korea is punishable only when it tries to subvert and destroy the democratic system of South Korea.

If North Korea removed "anti-revolution" crimes out of its criminal code which punishes activities harmful to its effort to communize the Southern half and activities designed to oppose and resist the North's single-party dictatorship and a class revolution, the government may consider revising or scrapping the National Security Law to match their action, Kim said.

As for the law governing South-North exchange and cooperation, Kim said there arose a need to ease regulations which oblige people to obtain prior government permission to visit North Korea or contact North Koreans.

The law's Article 26 which virtually equates inter-Korean economic exchanges with foreign trade would be subject to revision for fear that it might be used by foreign countries as a reason for demanding that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade be applied to South-North Korean trade, he said.

He stressed the article also ran counter to the spirit of the inter-Korean accord which does not see the bilateral relation as one between two independent states.

He said the recently signed inter-Korean accord did not contradict the armistice, South Korea-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty and other international treaties and the existing law because it was a political agreement between the two governments rather than a treaty binding two nations.

But if the two Koreas began to implement the agreement on human and material exchanges, arms reduction, and family reunions, South Korea was required to either unilaterally revise existing laws or to enact new laws or revise laws on a gradual basis for reciprocity, he said.

For example, laws describing the North Korean Government as a"puppet regime" or a "puppet group" needed an immediate amendment, which included the law on special compensation for North Korean defectors and the law on special measures for five North Korean provinces.

The government may set up new laws on country name, family register, criminal jurisdiction and joint economic ventures and consider revisions to laws on copy rights and patent, he said.

Korea Foundation Formed Under Foreign Ministry

SK2912053591 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 29 Dec 91 p 2

[Text] The Korea Foundation, which will be in charge of people and cultural exchanges with foreign countries, will be officially formed on 1 January 1992.

The Korea Foundation, an organization affiliated with the Foreign Ministry, held a second meeting of the promotion committee members on 27 December. Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok formally approved the articles of association; the necessary procedure for registration of the foundation will be completed around 30 December.

The chairman of the Korea Foundation is to be appointed by the president at the recommendation of Foreign Minister. Yu Hyok-in, president of the International Cultural Association of Korea which will be absorbed and integrated into the Korea Foundation, has been unofficially nominated as the first president of the foundation.

Daewoo Group Chairman Invited To Visit Pyongyang

SK2912003891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Dec 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Daewoo Group chairman Kim U-chung will visit Pyongyang in mid-January at the invitation of the North Korean government, a Daewoo Group spokesman announced yesterday.

Kim will stay in the Northern capital for four to five days, according to Daewoo sources.

The spokesman said chairman Kim has recently received the invitation from the North Korean Administration Council via a third country channel.

Kim will be the first prominent South Korean businessman to visit North Korea since the two Koreas signed a historic agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchanges and cooperation on Dec. 13 in Seoul.

The spokesman said Kim will soon complete necessary procedures for the North Korean trip, including official permission from the Unification Board, adding that he will be accompanied by seven to eight Daewoo executives.

During his stay in Pyongyang, Kim is expected to discuss joint venture projects, inter-Korean trade and other forms of bilateral economic cooperation with the North Korean officials, he said.

This will be Kim's second visit to North Korea. Kim, as the president of the Korean Football Association, had visited Pyongyang last May to discuss the formation of a joint South and North Korean soccer team. The single team participated in the sixth World Youth Soccer Championships held in Portugal in June.

Kim plans to hold a press conference on Jan. 3 or 4 on his forthcoming visit to Pyongyang and reveal his plans for the inter- Korean economic exchange.

Meanwhile, Kim left for Libya yesterday to spend the New Year holidays with Daewoo employees working on construction projects in the North African country.

There were reports that Kim visited Pyongyang secretly a few times since May and has already studied the possibility of economic cooperation, including joint venture projects with North Korean officials. Neither Daewoo nor government sources have confirmed these reports.

Government sources said Kim's visit will be a turning point in inter-Korean economic relationship as the official invitation revealed Pyongyang's positive attitude toward closer cooperation.

It is highly probable that Kim will meet top North Korean leaders including President Kim Il-song to speed up the economic cooperation during his visit.

The sources said North Korean officials are expected to suggest a variety of projects to be undertaken jointly during their meeting with the Daewoo chairman.

In 1989, Hyundai Group honorary chairman Chong Chu-yong visited North Korea at the invitation of a non-governmental organization, called the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland.

Chong visited his hometown and agreed with North Korean officials on developing the scenic Mt. Kumgang area for tourism promotion but the project has not materialized.

No Tae-u Meets Kim Yong-sam, Urges Party Unity

SK2812061591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u called for unity in his party Saturday and said the nation was disappointed by its internal friction at a time when the two Koreas were ending their confrontation.

In the last regular weekly meeting of the year with the No. 2 man in the party, Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, No said that party members must unite and cooperate with each other to overcome the country's economic difficulties and told Kim to work harder at this task.

Nomination of a presidential candidate was not discussed in compliance with an agreement to suspend debate on the political timetable until the new year, a presidential aide said.

Kim explained to No his position regarding his own faction's call for an end to the allegedly biased personnel policy based on regional antagonism and inclination towards nepotism inside the party, the source said.

No said party members should stand in the vanguard of the government's frugality efforts in 1992.

* DLP Factions Maneuver for Assembly Nomination

922C0036A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 17 Oct 91 p 3

[Article by reporters Chang Pyong-su and Kim Chang-hui: "Three DLP Factions Enter Nomination Race; Analysis of the Situation of Each Faction Surrounding Fight for Its Due Share of Nominees"]

[Text] With the beginning of negotiations between the ruling and opposition parties on a revision of the National Assembly Election Law on 17 September, the ruling party is now gradually shifting its attention to the nomination issue.

After a drawn-out internal controversy, the opinion of the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] has firmed up in favor of maintaining a minor constituency system, making certain that the electoral district issue will be settled in the direction of adding new districts and increasing the total number of electoral districts. This naturally has thrown the ruling party into inter-factional rivalry to get as many nominations as possible.

Inasmuch as the 14th general election slated for early next year will have a direct bearing on the DLP strategy for the presidential election, each faction is stepping up its behind-the-scenes maneuvering to check other factions in an effort to obtain a greater share of nominees.

The ruling party views the next general election as the final judgment on the achievements of the Sixth Republic and on the three-party merger, as well as a prop for the last phase of President No Tae-u's tenure. From this standpoint, the DLP is now shifting its attention to preparing for the next election by beginning, among other things, a screening of would-be candidates.

Chongwadae

Anticipating that the nominating process will get into stride when a reshuffle of cabinet and party posts takes place following the final action on the budget bill on 2 December, the Chongwadae secretaries and other close presidential aides are said already making preparations to nominate candidates for the next general election.

Inasmuch as the 14th National Assembly will be one which will realize a "new government" in preparation for national reunification and transition to the new century, Chongwadae will focus as much attention on ability and freshness as on the possibility of being elected in setting the standards of nomination. Accordingly, Chongwadae feels that any incumbent National Assembly members who were found implicated in corruption or irregularities in the international inspection of the local constituencies which was recently carried out on two occasions, or who their constituents regard as lacking in freshness and vision, should be omitted from the nomination list, regardless of which faction they belong to.

Chongwadae maintains that for this reason, the agreement on the proportionate strength of the three factions agreed upon at the time of the tripartite merger will have nothing to do with the nomination process for the next election. For this reason, it is feared that if the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] and NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party] factions insist on their proportional strength, it will entail a fiercer factional strife over the nomination of candidates than in any previous general election.

Based on its analysis that the ruling and opposition parties will be evenly matched in the Kyonggi and Chungchong areas in the 14th general election as a result of the opposition merger, Chongwadae explains that nomination for these areas will be based on data from strict internal investigations, and that naturally, stringent standards will be set for nomination.

DJP Faction

The atmosphere in the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] faction, the largest faction in the DLP, is fully in favor of this position of Chongwadae. The DJP faction maintains that inasmuch as the 14th general election will be in the process of creating a new government, that is, the "leading cast of the Seventh Republic," people immersed in old politics and old conventions should be excluded from nomination, that it is senseless to insure each faction its proportional share of assembly seats in this process, and that President No should exercise his full authority over nominations.

Needless to say, reflected in this position of the DJP is the fear that DLP Chairman Kim Yong-sam will try to secure a considerable number of nominees for his faction in preparation for his bid for the presidency.

In this regard, a key official of the DJP faction succinctly said on 16 September: "Some people in the party seem to believe that 'apportioning of candidates to each faction' is a natural thing to do, but such a thing should not happen in the government party." He added that "in particular, with the last phase of the presidential term around the corner, when the lame-duck phenomenon is likely to appear, any partial transfer or joint exercise of President No's authority to make nominations is inconceivable."

The same official said that President No's position has already been conveyed to Chairman Kim Yong-sam through the concerned Chongwadae aide, and the RDP faction is well aware of this atmosphere.

Nevertheless the DJP faction is not demanding an exclusive right to nominate all candidates, disregarding from the beginning the number of seats each faction had in the National Assembly at the time of the three-party merger. What the faction is insisting on is that, while respecting the relative strength of each faction as it is, nominations be made according to a set of standards.

Another aspect that deserves attention in the moves of the DJP faction is that recently there has been a stepped up move to unite around Supreme Council member Pak Tae-chun, and this move is interpreted as part of a maneuver to have control over the nomination.

Particularly, party middleweights belonging to the DJP faction, such as Assemblymen Yi Chong-chan, Yi Chun-ku, and Pak Chol-on, who have been antagonistic to each other, seem to have generally agreed through frequent personal contacts to the idea of "the DJP faction with Pak Tae-chun at the center."

In this connection, Supreme Council member Pak Tae-chun, who is scheduled to leave next week for a tour of the United States, Japan, and Canada, is drawing attention as he reportedly plans to discuss with the president in depth matters such as the direction of the party's management, relationships with other factions, and the nomination of party candidates for the 14th general election when he makes a courtesy call on the president on 21 September prior to his departure.

Since the three-party merger, the DJP faction has been fractured into sub-factions. Its strategy is now reportedly aimed at closing its ranks in preparation for the general election, "regaining" its standing as the largest faction, and thus giving more leeway to President No as the person who holds the authority of making nominations.

RDP Faction

Clearly realizing that the next general election is a prelude to the presidential election, the RDP faction holds the attitude that it can never concede on the issue of the proportional strength of the factions, which will decide the extent of say for each faction in the race for the presidential candidacy.

The position of the RDP faction is that now that the ratio of the number of National Assembly seats each faction had at the time of the tripartite merger and the apportionment of party posts to each faction stands at 50:30:20, as formally acknowledged, the RDP faction cannot make any concession on the problem of maintaining this ratio, particularly in the nomination issue, in which this ratio must be observed most strictly.

In particular, the RDP faction, which claims to be ahead of the other factions in the race for the presidential candidacy, is expecting Chairman Kim Yong-sam to exercise greater influence in the nomination process than the faction's proportional strength warrants.

In this regard, a source close to Chairman Kim said: "For the party president and chairman to exercise the nominating authority in a flexible manner through mutual consultation will be of great help in closing the party ranks and be a plus to establishing President No's democratic image."

From this point of view, the RDP faction will insist on its vested interest in those local party chapters from which the incumbent National Assemblymen are its members, and will try to preempt nomination for those districts where the seats are open, namely, 11 scandal-ridden electoral districts, 19 subdivided districts (on the basis of a population of 300,000 or more), and two newly established districts.

The position of the RDP faction is that because it has quite a few scandal-ridden districts, such as Pusan, Saha, Chinhae, Kochang, Yangsan, and Kwangju, under its control, it will try to preserve its rights in these districts and strengthen Chairman Kim's say in other districts in the nomination process.

In some quarters of the RDP faction, there are signs that people favor a deliberately flexible gesture on the part of the faction, however, on the grounds that "overemphasis on the vested interests will only have an adverse effect on the road to the presidency." Therefore, how the faction will adjust its internal opinions is worthy of attention.

NDRP Faction

The position of the NDRP faction is somewhat more temporizing. This is because, although the smallest faction in the party, the NDRP faction is making every effort to maintain its influence in order to hold a casting vote in the presidential race by taking advantage of its position.

This explains how Supreme Council member Kim Chong-pil recently made a controversial statement that he "cannot yield when it comes to the issue of proportional factional strength." In view of the signs that the DJP and RDP factions will handle the nomination process by dividing the pie between themselves from the point of view of resolving the rivalry between the two factions, his statement may have stemmed from an intention to block this move.

In addition, recently Chairman Kim Yong-sam has been frequently organizing golf games with officials of the DJP faction, and this may have been prompted by his desire to highlight his presence in the eyes of the NDRP faction and secure a larger share of nominees for his faction.

Bank To Maintain Money Supply at 18.5 Percent

SK2712012591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] The Bank of Korea plans to maintain the annual growth rate of total money supply, widely known as M2, at 18.5 percent next year, compared with an estimated 18.8 percent rise this year, it said yesterday.

The M2 is expected to expand by about 14-15 trillion won from this year on an average outstanding basis, the central bank said.

"The overall market financial status will likely be in a better shape next year than in 1991, with an exception of the second quarter in which we will likely see parliamentary elections, due to an envisioned decrease in facility investments and slow private consumption growth rate," said a senior central bank official.

During the January-March period, the central bank projects to keep M2 growth rate at 18.5 percent.

January will most likely see the total money supply grow in excess of the first quarter's goal of 18.5 percent, due to the New Year holiday (Jan. 1-Jan. 2) which usually carries a strong cash demand.

In the government sector, the central bank is expected to siphon off a large amount of liquidity in the first quarter of next year, thanks to the active collection of value-added, corporate and income taxes.

The money supply will likely expand in the private sector, due to the expansion of policy loans such as export-related lendings and housing loans.

On the other hand, monetary stabilization bonds which will be due during the January-March period will amount to 5.8 trillion won worth.

Current Account Deficit Hits Record $9.83 Billion

SK3012033491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0239 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea's current account deficit was a record 9.83 billion U.S. dollars for the first 11 months of the year, but the 1991 total is unlikely to exceed 10 billion dollars due to a trade surplus in December, the Bank of Korea said Monday.

In November, the current account registered a deficit of 644 million dollars, down from 702 million dollars in October, the central bank said.

The trade deficit was 540 million dollars in November, off 40 million dollars from the previous month, and the deficit in the non-trade sector shrank 22 million dollars to 134 million dollars. Net transfers registered a surplus of 31 million dollars.

December exports totaled 5.02 billion dollars as of Dec. 26 and imports 5.66 billion dollars for a deficit of 640 million dollars, but a slight surplus is expected at the end of the month, it said.

In November, imports surpassed exports by 7.36 billion dollars to 6.67 billion dollars. Both figures were the largest in 1991.

November export growth was 10.9 percent over the same month last year and imports fell 2.2 percent from a year before.

In the non-trade sector, a rise in the investment revenue deficit, including interest and dividends, created an overall deficit of 134 million dollars. The travellers' account recorded a surplus.

Korea had foreign exchange holdings of 13.62 billion dollars at the end of November, up 40 million dollars from October.

Trade with the United States recorded a deficit of 40 million dollars, turning around from a surplus of 120 million dollars in October, but a deficit of 180 million dollars with the European Community in October was converted into a surplus of 50 million dollars.

Korea's trade deficit with Japan rose 150 million dollars to 830 million dollars in November and its deficit with "northern" nations fell from 207 million dollars to 170 million dollars.

1991 Shipbuilding Orders Set Record for Tonnage

SK2712113591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0905 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 (YONHAP)—Shipbuilding orders have amounted to 840,000 tons so far this month, bringing the total for the year to a record 5.34 million tons, worth 5.3 billion U.S. dollars, the Korea Shipbuilders Association said Friday.

The figures represent increases of 21.8 percent from 4.38 million tons and 44.4 percent from 3.67 billion dollars for all of 1990.

Hyundai Heavy Industries received orders totaling 634,000 tons this month, including a request last week from BHP Co. of Australia for a 30,000-ton bulk carrier.

The company also has signed contracts to build three 18,000-ton containerships for an Indian client, three 150,000-ton VLCCs (very large crude oil carriers) and two 50,000-ton tankers.

Orders offered to Hyundai this year to date were tentatively tallied at 2.94 million tons.

Halla Heavy Industry obtained an order two weeks ago from Shell of Britain for four 28,000-ton refined-oil carriers and Hanjin Heavy Industry grabbed an order for two 47,000-ton containerships.

First Surpluses Since 1980's

SK2812053491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0441 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—Many of South Korea's debt-ridden shipyards produced surpluses this year after stubborn deficits since the early 1980's, industry sources said Saturday.

Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery and Samsung Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries had their first black ink in a decade and Halla Engineering and Heavy Industries rang up the first surplus since its inauguration in 1977, he said.

Daewoo's surplus for the year is projected at 50 billion won (66 million U.S. dollars), compared with 10 billion won for Samsung and 5 billion won for Halla.

Daewoo, freed from chronic labor disputes since 1987, expects turnover to surpass 950 billion won (1.26 billion dollars) for the year, up more than 35 percent from 1990.

The company had a deficit of 230 billion won in 1989 and 39 billion won in 1990. Its last surplus was in 1983.

Samsung's turnover is expected to reach 420 billion won (556 million dollars), up 76.4 percent from last year. The yard stopped making surpluses in 1982.

Halla had turnover of 250 billion won, a 2.3-fold jump from 108 billion won last year, when the firm suffered a deficit of 28 billion won.

Hyundai Heavy Industries is projected to make a surplus of 200 billion to 250 billion won on turnover of more than 2 trillion won (2.65 billion dollars) for the year. Hyundai, which registered black ink in the 1980's, had turnover of 1.5 trillion won in 1990.

Hanjin Heavy Industries failed to make a surplus this year because of a 40-day-long strike that resulted in a loss of 30 billion won. Turnover, however, jumped 30 percent to 220 million won.

* Article Reviews Problems on Export Front

922C0034A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 1, 2, 7, 8, 11 Oct 91

[Article in five installments by reporters: "A Review of Emergencies on Export Fronts"]

[Text] Editor's note: While the sluggish exports and the rapidly increasing imports are pushing up the nation's trade deficits, spawning fears of an economic crisis, business communities are generally of the opinion that the balance of payments defense measures, announced by the government last month, can hardly be expected to have any significant effects. In view of the current pressing needs for cutbacks on imports and revitalization of exports, we will take a look at bottlenecks on export fronts and ways to resolve them, with focus on the major industries that had been a driving force of the nation's exports.

[1 Oct 91 p 6, by Yi Kyu-min] Auto Industry

A depressed mood prevails in the auto industry now.

The nation's auto exports began falling rapidly following a peak in 1988 with 576,000 cars. After the downswing reached its bottom last year with the shipments of 347,000 cars, it was said that the worst was over; nevertheless, the industry, in fact, is unlikely to reach over 380,000 cars in its total exports for this year.

Production suffered setbacks because of labor-management disputes and workers' long, collective leaves for energy conservation in June and July. Then there were typhoons and the chusok holidays. All these were seen as major contributions to the sluggish exports.

To make it worse, the rapid wage increases in recent years pushed up the production costs and, as a result, the industry began losing ground to foreign cars in competitiveness. This is another big factor.

For instance, in the U.S. markets, the price of the Hyundai Excel was 16 percent lower than Japan's Honda Civic in 1988 but the gap narrowed to 11 percent in late June this year, while the price gap between the Hyundai Sonata and the Honda Accord shrank from $3,000 in 1988 to $1,600 this year.

For price differences of this range, consumers would naturally choose Japanese cars, which are by far superior in quality. Thus came the slip in popularity of Korean-made cars.

Hyundai Motor Company Vice President Pak Pyong-chae says: "The issue is quality. Those producing cars should devote themselves to what they make, in the spirit of breathing life into each piece of product. Otherwise, it is impossible to recover the lost markets." As if to back up his words, a recent U.S. market survey showed a Korean model as the third worst among imported cars in the rate of breakdowns, and a Korean maker as the 36th of the world's 38 auto makers in the consumer satisfaction rating.

Meanwhile, it is a characteristic feature of the industry that only when its numerous subcontractors for components and parts maintain the highest quality levels can the finished cars secure reliability in quality. Realistically, therefore, it is difficult to find a solution to the quality problem in a short period of time.

Also, in productivity, our per-worker annual production is only 19.3 cars (on Hyundai basis), a figure hardly competitive against Mitsubishi's 52.7 cars.

The Korean wage level is 60.7 percent of the Japanese; as for the vast gap in productivity, however, Korean products are doomed to lose their competitive edge.

In this connection, Cho Kwan-hyon, vice chairman of the Korea Auto Industries Association, says: "At any rate, since we are under pressure in terms of price, we must shake off the notion that Korean cars are cheap cars and, to that end, set up on-site production bases overseas and compete with foreign companies on an equal footing."

To be more competitive in price, investments in the plant and equipment automation must precede everything else. To attain most of the won [W] 4,300 billion needed to finance such investments in the 1991-93 period, however, makers have to depend on private loans at nearly 20 percent interest per annum. This adds to the industry's burden.

Despite these circumstances, the World Automotive Report, a British journal which is one of the world's top forecasters on car demands, came up with an optimistic prediction, saying that the world auto production through the year 2010 will make gains by 50 percent compared with the 1990 level and that during the same period, Korea's production will achieve a remarkably high 10.8 percent growth per year.

Kim Yu-chae, director of the Machine Industry Bureau of the Ministry of Trade and Industry [MTI] says: "Prospects of our auto exports are very bright as the demands of Asia's new industrializing countries are likely to increase rapidly, beginning in 1995." To cash in on the anticipated demands, he noted, plant and equipment investments by the industry to improve productivity, as well as efforts by all the working people to secure sustained high quality, should precede all other things.

[2 Oct 91 p 7, by Ho Sung-ho] Electronic Industry

Dark clouds are hanging low on electronics too, the sector that holds the largest share of the nation's exports.

Electronics exports, which began in 1958 with tube-type radios assembled and shipped by Goldstar Company, grew at an amazing rate—e.g., 45.5 percent and 61.4 percent in 1987 and 1988 over the preceding year, respectively. They reached $16.3 billion in 1988 or 28 percent of the nation's total exports for that year, surpassing textile exports for the first time and taking on the role of a driving force for the government's export policy.

With home appliances—the leading export item—turning to minus growth in 1989, however, the growth of electronics exports in general slowed down drastically to a sluggish 5.1 percent in 1989 and dropping to 4.3 percent in 1990.

Industry sources would unanimously point out that "the loss of competitiveness in quality and price resulting from the low-level technology and high wages is responsible" for the slump.

Kim Tae-kon, head of a department of the Korea Electronic Industry Development Association, says: "Through 1988, when our home appliances industry enjoyed prosperity, our products including color television sets, refrigerators and washing machines dominated world markets. Based on the low wages of those days, the industry had no difficulties in making and selling those goods."

The market shares had to change in the last two or three years, however, as such high-tech items as camcorders, 25-inch or bigger color televisions, compact-disc players, and high-definition VCR's of four or more heads showed up to lead the world markets, according to business analysts. In other words, the world home appliances markets are now being led by Japan, the country that has steadily been investing in the high technology developments.

Pak Chan, member of the board of directors of Daewoo Electronics Company, says: "Korean-made home appliances are losing their popularity among customers even in domestic markets. In the Yongsan electronics center in Seoul or the Chonggyesan market, smuggled-in Japanese-made appliances account for 60-70 percent of the total amount of goods sold there."

The situation is largely the same with computers and communications equipment. Song Tae-hui, head of a department of the Korea Information Industries Association, says: "While 32-bit or portable, note-book-type computers have emerged as leading items in world markets, we are still making only 16-bit, desk-top computers."

In the communications equipment too, our main export item is the telephone, which is lowest in added value.

Only in IC semiconductor production has Korea used its own technology and is steadily increasing its exports.

Of the total electronics exports, semiconductor shipments increased every year from 38 percent in 1987 to 48 percent last year.

MTI and other authorities appear to be counting on the growing semiconductor exports, and on the plant and equipment investments which the industry started making belatedly, for the future of our electronics exports.

Yi Ki-song, director of the MTI Electronic and Electric Industries Bureau, says: "It is said that our failure to invest adequately in research and development [R&D] in our prosperous days is the biggest reason for the weak competitiveness now. This criticism is applicable to our electronics, too." "The difficulty is likely to continue for the time being," he adds, "but, when the current R&D efforts by the industry begin producing results, we will know that the future of our electronic industry is still hopeful."

[7 Oct 91 p 7, by Kwon Sun-hwal] Footwear Industry

Apollo Shoe Ind. Co. in Pusan, one of the top 10 shoemakers in the country and in financial straits for some time, finally went bankrupt on 1 October after failing to pay bills. The case pointedly shows how serious the difficulties now being experienced by the footwear industry are.

Apollo, which employed more than 1,000 workers and operated five production lines, had no alternative but to close down when the costs ran higher than the export prices, making the business unprofitable. The average export price for a pair of Apollo-made shoes was $16.50 against the production cost of $17.50 to $18. The company simply ran out of resources.

Kukje Corporation, which was once called the top runner in footwear business with its 128 production lines, also reportedly plans to drastically reduce its operations to about 10 production lines in March next year. The nation's footwear industry seems headed for further withering.

Kukje's annual exports reached $243 million last year. But its exports for the first half of this year were only $20 million. The company originally planned to export $260 million worth of goods this year but, according to observations by industry sources, it is unlikely that this goal will be attained.

Korea has been close to Italy in footwear exports (and the world's top in the sneakers category), registering a high growth every year since 1980. The picture changed, however, when labor-management disputes began in 1987, marking a minus growth for the first time in 1989. Buyers found new import sources in Southeast Asian countries as the production costs soared in Korea.

Finding out that products from Taiwan, China and Indonesia—where the costs were relatively lower—were inferior in quality to ours, some foreign buyers chose Korea and, as a result, business appeared picking up again last year. As of the end of August, however, exports shrank as much as 6.9 percent compared with the same period last year, showing that the industry's ordeal still continues.

While big manufacturers producing relatively expensive, high-class sports shoes are better off, it is said that those making medium- and low-priced sneakers which require less skilled labor have nearly lost all their competitiveness. Lately, bankruptcies of medium- and small-sized companies and parts makers have been reported one after another, showing the plight of those makers and subcontractors engaged in the manufacturing of low-price shoes who are under the financial pressure of falling exports.

The difficulty being experienced by the industry could indeed be blamed on the loss of competitiveness due to high wages and with rises in production costs as the result; however, the words of Chong Myong-kyo, a section chief at Hwasung Company note the prevailing observation that this is "basically due to the original-equipment manufacturing (OEM) method which represents the structural problem of our footwear exports."

To cover the weakness in popularity of our trademarks in overseas markets, the industry has been operating as subcontractors for famous foreign makers such as Reebok and Nike. The result was that they got away with the real profits, leaving Korean makers clinging on to their orders, often at below-cost prices.

Therefore, according to the unanimous view of industry sources, the only way for our footwear industry to make some leaping developments in the future is to outgrow the OEM method as soon as possible and compete in the world market on our own.

[8 Oct 91 p 7, by Paek Sung-hun] Textile Industry: "Cheap" Made-in-Korea Days Gone

These days Mr. Kwon, 45, a small apparel dealer in Songnam, Kyonggi Province, would fly to Southeast Asian countries whenever he gets export orders from foreign buyers.

His purpose is to place his orders with Korean firms that set up operations in those countries.

If he should try to use domestic makers to fill orders, Kwon explains, it would not pay because of the high wages. Furthermore, he adds, there would be delays in delivery plus defective products as a result of the current labor shortage in the country, which together makes it difficult for him to meet buyers' demands.

The textile industry, as one of the four leading export industries and a major foreign currency source, is floundering now, as seen in indices.

Its exports last year were $14.6 billion, marking a negative 3.1 percent growth compared with the previous year, for the first time since the mid-1980's. This year's exports, as of the end of August, made a meager 3.7 percent gain over the same period last year.

In particular, the apparel exports, which accounted for 60 percent of all the textile exports, last year fell to $8.86 billion, marking a 12.6 percent decrease from 1989. The slide continues this year, with shipments through August marking $5.45 billion, a 7.3 percent down from the same period last year.

The nation's textile industry had relied on quantitative exports taking advantage of low wage levels. As a consequence, as the wages rose drastically, beginning in 1987, it began to lose its competitiveness in price. Furthermore, as if to add insult to injury, the current labor shortage is aggravating the situation, leaving the industry unable to meet export orders even if they come.

Thus, before catching up with the textile giants like Italy and Japan in the high-price product category, it finds the least developed among developing countries [LDDC's] like Thailand and Indonesia on its heels even in the low-price product category. Also, as a result of the sluggish exports since 1987, apparel exporters switched to domestic demands en masse, staging "self-destructive" competition in domestic markets while making little efforts to develop new markets overseas. This is seen as another cause of the slump.

Kim Hyong-man, chief of the dressmaking department of Kolon Industries, expressed his concern over the current trends of apparel exports by saying that "except in specialized areas like fashion fronts, our textile exports are losing market shares to LDDC's, especially for medium- and low-price apparels which are our main export item."

Although yarn and fabrics exports are in better shape these days, their long-term prospects are not too bright. Kang Chol-su, director in charge of synthetic fiber at Tongkook Corporation says: "Low-priced materials have been leading items in the fabrics exports of our country. The recent high wages and labor shortages, however, caused the industry to lose its competitiveness and, unless there are some successful efforts made for new product and technology developments, as well as improvements in productivity and reductions in cost, we will soon find LDDC's on our heels in this area, too."

The government came up with medium- and long-term policies to combat all these difficulties and prop up the textile industry. The industry is also making self-recovery efforts—e.g., by increasing investments in automation to combat the labor shortage. Analyses show, however, that it is unlikely that these efforts will have much effect.

Kim Myong-ho, board member of the Korea Textile Export Union says: "The nation's textile industry now stands at the crossroads to determine if it should allow itself to sink further or continue as a major export industry through structural readjustment." "Only through a combination of the industry's positive self-recovery efforts, the government's realistic measures to ease the labor shortage and bolster funding support and workers' efforts to improve productivity will it be possible to find a way out of this crisis."

[11 Oct 91 p 7, by Yi Pyong-ki] Machine Industry: In the Red Because of Foreign Parts

"They are Korean-made only by external appearances. All the major parts are imports from Japan. We only assembled them."

This is a self-derisive monologue by a certain Mr. Kim, vice president of a machine-making firm which entered computerized, numerical control lathes in the "ROK Machine Fair 1991" being held in the Trade Hall in Samsong-tong, Kangnam-ku, Seoul since 4 October.

The nation's trade balance in the machine sector (except for the electronic and shipbuilding sections) has continued to register deficits—$700 million in 1988, $4.3 billion in 1989, and $6.6 billion in 1990. The 1990 deficit was even larger than the total 1990 trade deficit of $4.8 billion, by $1.2 billion, that is.

The deficit of the general machines division in particular—the most important of the five divisions of the machine industry—reached $7.3 billion last year. This year it is expected to reach $9 billion.

The stagnant machine industry is the main factor responsible for the slips in the overall trade balance, the general machines being the "chief culprit."

The chronic trade deficits in the machine sector are mainly due to the backwardness of the parts and materials industries, analyses by business sources indicate.

Also, the lack of cooperation between indigenous machine-producing firms and businesses using imported machines is cited as another major factor contributing to the backwardness of the machine industry.

Considering the fact that medium- and small-size parts makers in the advanced countries spent scores of years or nearly a century building their traditions and accumulating technologies through trial and error, it is indeed impossible for us to achieve their levels in a short period of time.

This is because mechanical technology, characteristically, is not a thing that can be gained from books but it is for skilled workers to learn by personal experience on the production site.

It should be noted that the backwardness was also caused by the industry having neglected R&D efforts. In fact, high-level technology requires tremendous R&D funds but the total R&D fund of our machine industry is only 1/39th of that of the United States, and 1/20th of Japan's.

Consequently, our machine industry, far from reaching the world's advanced levels, has seen its gap with them grow even wider in areas of sophisticated technology since the 1980's.

While the demands for machines continue to increase due to the expanding automation of businesses in the country, user firms continue to rely on imported machines, shunning domestic products. This is another major cause of the trade deficit.

Yi Kyong-hun, president of Daewoo Heavy Industries, says: "The machine tool market in this country is expected to reach a W2 trillion scale in 1994; in order for domestic machine makers to meet all its demands, close university-business-government cooperation as well as joint investments by the industry are required."

Anyway, the nation's technology levels cannot be expected to grow overnight, industry sources note, and, therefore, it might be effective to improve quality in areas other than high-tech products, to overcome the sluggish machines exports, with targets set on markets in the developing countries."

They also insist that government policies—including the foreign currency loan program that puts domestically produced machines at a disadvantage with its offer of various benefits to foreign machine imports, in the name of strengthening the competitiveness of the manufacturing industries—should also be corrected.

* North Makes Family, Inheritance Law Public

922C0038A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 15 Oct 91 p 16

[Article by reporter Sin Hyo-sop]

[Text] The full text of North Korea's first codified family law since the establishment of the North Korean regime was recently made public by a North Korean research center.

Adopted by the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] on 24 October last year, the law carries the formal title of "Family Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

The enactment of North Korea's family law is seen as essentially departing from its own socialist concepts. That is, according to Marxism-Leninism, the family system has been described as "a feudalistic system that must be eliminated as production grows and society advances." Accordingly, from the early days of its establishment, the North Korean regime deliberately ignored the traditional family system and attempted to abolish it. While strengthening the regime, however, the concept of "family" actually expanded in North Korean society and was broadly utilized. A typical example can be found in the fact that Kim Il-song is called "father."

Also, the thorough application of "the guilt by association system," in which various types of social positions are decided according to one's social origins and family background, attests to the "absoluteness" of the concept of family.

Finally, it is believed that to bridge the gap between this kind of reality and theory, North Korea has, albeit belatedly, codified a family law that is a compromise between the two. Here, there was probably also an indirect influence exerted by the need for a firm foundation for the Kim Il-song-Kim Chong-il succession arrangement based on "the theory of the leader's bloodline and character."

Reflecting its transitional character, the North Korean family law exhibits several characteristics. First, the socialist concept of family that strongly pervades the entire law, is the concept of the "socialist great family." This means that the entire North Korean society is regarded as one "great family," and each individual family is a basic component of it. This cleverly binds together North Korea's totalitarism with the patriarchal extended family system.

Second, our nation's traditional Confucian elements permeate the law. A typical example: the patrilineal principle of children taking the father's surname. This differs from the system followed in the Soviet Union and China.

Third, the inheritance system, which had been criticized as "capitalistic exploitation," is now officially recognized. With respect to this, the North Korean authorities do their best to explain: "Inheritance, a system that protects individual property of a deceased citizen, reflects the characteristics of the transitional society, in which people still are deeply concerned about their individual property." In contrast to this, our relevant authorities contend that: "This stance of the North Korean side is a reversal of the wheel of their history, which had claimed that socialism had been completed."

North Korea's family law is composed of six chapters and 56 articles. Chapter 1 defines the basis of the family law; Chapter 2 deals with marriage; Chapter 3 with the household; Chapter 4 with guardianship; Chapter 5 with inheritance; and Chapter 6 with penalties.

First, Article 1 of Chapter 1 explains the major principles of the law as follows: "The family law of the DPRK shall contribute to making the entire society into a harmonious, united socialist great family by consolidating and developing the socialistic marriage and family system.

Following this, Chapter 5 explains the major principle regarding inheritance: "Inheritance is the continuation of the legal protection of individual property. The state shall protect the right of inheritance of individual property."

Chapter 2, after first clarifying the system of monogamy (Article 8) in the section on "marriage," then goes on to permit early marriage, stipulating the age for men at 18 and that of women at 17 (Article 9). On the heels of that the law goes, however: "The state shall encourage the social ethic of young people marrying after usefully working for the group," which opens the door legally for the state to encourage late marriage and to make early marriage impossible.

In the section on the household in Chapter 3, Articles 20-24 stipulate the provisions concerning divorce.

Divorces can be obtained only through a court trial (Article 20), and grounds for divorce are broadly defined as: cases where one spouse severely betrays the love and trust of the couple and cases where other factors make it impossible for them to continue married life.

Chapter 4 clarifies matters relating to "guardianship," and Chapter 5 deals with the issue of "inheritance." Inheritance is divided into two kinds: "statutory inheritance" and "testamentary inheritance." Extending the scope of inheritors to include even "close relatives" is peculiar. Similar to the law in the South is the clause that denies the right of inheritance to "a person who, even though he may be defined by the law as an inheritor, had greatly abused the deceased during his lifetime, a person who has intentionally not taken care of the deceased, or a person who has deliberately fabricated the conditions of [eligibility for] inheritance."

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Returns From Japan, ROK 29 Dec

BK2912140091 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 1330 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] The government will make a decision on the second car project next month. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the project will only be carried out if it is viable. The prime minister said the government's decision would still be depending on various factors brought up by Daihatsu. He made it clear that serious consideration was very important so that the car would be cheaper than others in the market. The prime minister was talking to reporters on his return from Japan and South Korea at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at Subang tonight. He said the cost of producing the car should be much less than that of the Proton Saga [the first locally made car] to (?help) those who want to have a car but could not afford it until now.

While in Tokyo, he had dicussions with Daihatsu and other companies, including Mitsubishi Motors, Mitsubishi Corporation, [company name indistinct], and Mitsui. While in Japan and South Korea, he also had meetings with investors.

Government To Recognize CIS Republics 'Soon'

BK2812074491 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Malaysia will recognize Russia and the other republics of the newly founded Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] soon. Speaking to Malaysian journalists in Ulsan, South Korea today, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said the latest developments in Moscow clearly showed that the states of the former Socialist Soviet Republics were intent on having a pact among them as newly independent states. This means that they were free to adopt their own individual foreign policies.

Asked when the Malaysian recognition would be announced, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it would not be long as the government only have to make an official decision. He said with the recognition, the Malaysian diplomatic mission in Moscow would be made the Malaysian mission to Russia and possibly be accredited to nearby independent states as well.

On trade pacts with the states, he said Malaysia presently only has trade relations with Russia.

On the future of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the prime minister predicted that things could not be bright overnight. He said this is because it is not an easy task to switch from one system of government to another.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir is now in South Korea on a private visit.

Opening Embassies To Be Studied

BK2712150491 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Malaysia will study the possibility of opening embassies in several republics making up the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] which has replaced the Soviet Union. Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said that priority would be given to republics which had bilateral relations with Malaysia, particularly in trade. Such a step is necessary, since there are 11 sovereign republics within the new commonwealth.

Datuk Dr. Abdullah told newsmen at the Parliament Building that the Malaysian Embassy was, however, representing for the time being the country in relations with all these republics. The Soviet Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has been ordered by the Russian Republic leadership to represent the republic.

Datuk Dr. Abdullah said that Soviet Ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Anatoliy Khmelnitskiy, whose duties ended last Tuesday, had been ordered to remain in the post for the time being. He said that Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir or Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would soon make an official statement on Malaysia's stand on the republics.

Singapore

Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif Arrives for Talks

BK2212113291 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] The Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is in Singapore for a three-day working visit. He is accompanied by a 32-member delegation of government ministers and senior officials. Speaking to reporters at the airport, Mr. Sharif says he is here to learn about Singapore's achievements and progress over the past 25 to 30 years.

During his stay, Mr. Sharif will call on the prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, and meet the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. Their talks are expected to focus on privatization with a view to liberalizing the Pakistani economy.

Meets Premier Goh, Lee Kuan Yew

BK2312115391 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] The visiting Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, today called on his counterpart, Mr. Goh Chok Tong. Later in the afternoon, Mr. Sharif met the senior minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew. The 32-member Pakistani team comprising ministers and senior officials also attended a briefing at the Economic Development Board. The delegation leaves for home tonight after a two-day working visit.

Cambodia

Communique Announces Khieu Samphan Return

BK2812005291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Dec 91

["Press communique: His Excellency Khieu Samphan Will Go To Phnom Penh on 30 December 1991 To Attend the Supreme National Council Meeting;" dated 28 December—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], will go to Phnom Penh on 30 December 1991 to attend the SNC meeting under the lofty chairmanship of the samdech head of state and SNC chairman to speed up the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

2. His Excellency Khieu Samphan is going with full authority to decide on behalf of the PDK's two SNC members.

3. His Excellency Khieu Samphan is going with a spirit to cooperate with the SNC members of all four parties to speed up the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia to quickly end the war, which has dragged on for 13 years, and to quickly end the suffering, hardship, and destruction of our Cambodian nation and people.

[Dated] 28 December 1991

Security Prepared for Return

BK2812052291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0404 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 28—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan will make a second attempt to return here Monday for a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC), Prime Minister Hun Sen said here yesterday.

"The security has been prepared for them," the prime minister said, speaking outside the National Assembly, where new laws limiting demonstrations were being debated.

Last time Khieu Samphan returned to Phnom Penh, he and fellow leader Son Sen were driven out by an angry lynch mob after demonstrations that appeared to be went out of control [as received].

The new laws require government authorization three days in advance to hold a demonstration, and specify that they must be peaceful.

Hun Sen's government promised the Khmer Rouge leaders that it would assure their safety the next time they return to Phnom Penh.

Khmer Rouge radio said Wednesday that if Khieu Samphan and Son Sen were attacked again, Cambodia's civil war would resume. The SNC groups the four factions that fought in the nearly 13-year civil war, and it represents Cambodia's sovereignty under a United Nations force.

"We have a lot of work to do" at the SNC meeting, Hun Sen said.

But he also called for the immediate deployment of the full United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is not scheduled to arrive until March or April.

"I want them to come as soon as possible," he said.

Without the full U.N. presence, the peace process cannot be completed, he said. "It's like a car. If we have only three wheels, the car cannot go. We need four wheels".

The current U.N. presence here is an advance mission setting up for the arrival of UNTAC.

Although it has a military contingent of nearly 300, it is only a liaison group with the SNC—which has yet to meet in Phnom Penh.

Hun Sen Gives Security Assurance

BK2912031291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] On 27 December 1991, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], addressed a letter to H.E. Hun Sen, SNC member of the Phnom Penh side, informing him of the former's trip to Phnom Penh on 30 December 1991 to attend the SNC meeting. Concerning this message to inform H.E. Hun Sen, the latter has sent a reply of which the following is the essence:
Phnom Penh, 27 December 1991
H.E. Khieu Samphan, SNC member

Your Excellency, I am happy to have received your letter dated 27 December 1991. I thank you for your information. I have taken appropriate measures to receive you and your delegation upon arrival in Phnom Penh and to ensure security and safety so that the SNC meeting can proceed.
Your Excellency, please accept my high consideration.
[Signed] Hun Sen, SNC member

No Protests Reported on Arrvial

BK3012031691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0300 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 30 (AFP) - Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan arrived Monday to attend the first meeting here of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC).

But he arrived alone. Fellow leader Son Sen did not accompany him to Phnom Penh, even though both sit on the SNC.

There were no demonstrators greeting the Khmer Rouge leader, and he went directly to the Royal Palace for the meeting.

The last time Khieu Samphan tried to return to Phnom Penh he was chased out of town by an angry mob that tried to lynch him.

This time, the Phnom Penh government passed laws to strictly limit demonstrations, and the streets were heavily guarded by police carrying AK-47 rifles.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral and Cooperative Cambodia] faction loyal to his father Prince Norodom Sihanouk, also returned from Bangkok for the meeting of the SNC, a reconciliation body that groups all the factions under a U.N.-sponsored peace plan.

'Symbolic' 30 Dec SNC Meeting Discussed

BK3012111691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 30 Dec 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Dec 30 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan returned here Monday under heavy security, one month after being chased out by a lynch mob, for the first meeting in the Cambodian capital of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Cambodia's formerly warring factions met under U.N. supervision and agreed to send a letter to new U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali requesting that more peacekeeping troops be sent immediately to Cambodia, sources at the meeting said.

The SNC also agreed to hold its next meeting January 10, and to meet every Friday after that. The issue of de-mining the Cambodian countryside was briefly discussed.

"It was very cordial, a very good meeting," said one official source who attended.

The meeting's significance is primarily symbolic, as the apex in the Cambodian peace process, because the SNC has no real power to govern.

There were no demonstrators greeting the Khmer Rouge leader as he arrived on a plane from Bangkok—only a few curious onlookers. Without speaking to reporters, the confident and grinning leader went directly to the Royal Palace for the SNC meeting in a high-speed motorcade.

The Phnom Penh government did not announce his arrival. [passage omitted]

The road from the airport to the Royal Palace was heavily guarded by security forces carrying AK-47s. Khieu Samphan arrived alone, however. Fellow leader Son Sen did not accompany him to Phnom Penh, even though both sit on the SNC. [passage omitted]

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the FUNCINPEC faction loyal to his father Prince Norodom Sihanouk, also returned from Bangkok for the meeting.

The SNC, under United Nations supervision, seats all four factions who have fought a civil war for nearly 13 years.

It was created under a peace treaty signed in October, which provides for U.N. supervision of Cambodia until elections can be held in 1993.

Sihanouk Urges Early Dispatch of UNTAC

BK2812055491 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 91

["Statement by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk"—read by announcer]

[Text] In my capacity as the chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, I wish to solemnly reaffirm that I fully and zealously support the peace accord and all the annexes of the accord signed on 23 October 1991. I also wish to reaffirm the four Cambodian parties' resolute and persistent determination to fully, meticulously, and correctly implement the peace accord and its annexes.

I wish to call on the four Cambodian parties' leaders, the signatories to the accord and its annexes, to fully and speedily implement the aforementioned accord and annexes by closely cooperating, on a permanent basis, with His Excellency Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], the joint military working team, the lofty representatives of the five major powers, various UN agencies, and other international organizations responsible for the implementation of the aforesaid peace accord and annexes.

I also wish to appeal to His Excellency the UN secretary general to speed up without delay the dispatch to this country of his special representative and an advanced contingent of the force of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. As a matter of fact, the peace accord for Cambodia signed on 23 October cannot be thoroughly and successfully implemented without the presence of the special envoy of His Excellency the UN secretary general and the UNTAC force in Cambodia.

The Cambodian people and motherland, which have suffered seriously since 18 March 1970, hope and entirely rely on the spirit of patriotism and wisdom of the four Cambodian parties' leaders, His Excellency the UN secretary general, the five major powers, the UN

Security Council, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and the governments of friendly countries, as well as all competent international organizations to help them recover genuine peace within freedom, unity, and territorial integrity.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Phnom Penh

27 December 1991

Khmer Army Expresses Support for Khieu Samphan

BK3012005491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Dec 91

["Statement by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea;" dated 29 December—read by announcer]

[Text] The entire National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] on all battlefields, all divisions, and all independent regiments operating in every province and district throughout Cambodia, would like to issue a statement on this occasion to reaffirm its stance as follows:

1. To fully assist and support the 24 December 1991 statement by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and fully assist and support the 25 December 1991 statement by His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan.

2. To assist and support the decision by H.E. Khieu Samphan to go to Phnom Penh as representative with the full authority of the PDK to attend the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting chaired by Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, in the spirit of speeding up the implementation of the Paris agreement for the benefit of our Cambodian nation and people who aspire to quickly and definitely end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia.

3. To fully assist and support H.E. Khieu Samphan's decision to go to Phnom Penh alone to attend the SNC meeting because the NADK, like the entire Cambodian people in and outside the country, clearly realizes that Phnom Penh is not a neutral place. Phnom Penh is openly and secretly in the hands of the Vietnamese. There are still numerous Vietnamese in the police, the Army, and among its leaders.

The NADK, like the Cambodian people in and outside the country, clearly realizes that Phnom Penh can only be a neutral place with the stationing there of at least 1,000 staff of the UN Transitional Authority.

4. The NADK would like to make it clear that it is fully satisfied with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and will strive to implement it fully because the NADK clearly realizes its significance, namely:

a. Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia will be checked by the Cambodian SNC and the UN Transitional Authority to ensure that all these are withdrawn from Cambodia.

b. The Cambodian SNC and the UN Transitional Authority will control and check the four Cambodian parties' forces until all these forces are dissolved to avoid untoward incidents for the Cambodian nation and people.

c. Establish a neutral political atmosphere in the whole country to create conditions for elections, organized and controlled by the Cambodian SNC and the UN Transitional Authority.

[Dated] 29 December 1991

[Signed] The NADK

Foreign Minister on Khmer Rouge, UNTAC, Economy

BK3012091491 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0424 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, 30 Dec (SPK)—The Cambodian foreign minister declared that the State of Cambodia [SoC] embarked on its economic liberalization policy in 1988.

During an interview granted to Miss Rosnah Majid, a journalist from Malaysia, Hor Namhong affirmed that his country was open to foreign investment and that it wished to learn from the experience of the ASEAN countries while keeping in mind the realities of Cambodia.

Concerning the issue of the Khmer Rouge, the head of the Cambodian diplomacy voiced his opposition to the latter's return to power, recalling that had our people not been liberated in time no one knows how high the number of Khmer Rouge victims would have become.

Hor Namhong stressed that the SoC, however, pledged to fully respect the peace accords signed in Paris and called for the earliest possible arrival of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) so that these accords can be implemented.

"We are optimistic about the settlement of the Cambodian problem, although there still exist many difficulties," affirmed Hor Namhong, who then expressed the determination of his government to apply all the provisions of the Paris agreement, especially those concerning the cease-fire, the cessation of foreign military aid, the 70 percent demobilization of the armed forces, the organization of the voluntary repatriation of the refugees, the mine clearance....

On the need for foreign aid to restore the country's economy, Hor Namhong recalled the destruction caused to all sectors by the polpotist regime and underlined that the SoC needs foodstuffs, materials, and equipment for the modernization of agriculture, telecommunications, electricity production, and so on.

Khmer Rouge Urges Joint Control of 5 Ministries

BK3012012891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 29 Dec 91

["Cooperate To Implement the 23 October 1991 Paris Peace Agreement Properly and Meticulously"—VGNUFC headline]

[Text] The peace agreement signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 was the result of nearly 13 years of struggle by the Cambodian nation and people. It is the fruit of the flesh and blood sacrifice of the Cambodian nation and people against Vietnam's act of aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

The first annex of the Paris agreement clearly states that the UN Transitional Authority, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and the Supreme National Council [SNC] of the four Cambodian parties, with Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, should work together to implement the agreement in the military, security, police, foreign affairs, finance, and information fields correctly from the beginning to the end during the transition.

Therefore, to properly and meticulously implement the Paris agreement, the four Cambodian parties in the SNC, with Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as chairman, and the UN Transitional Authority have to be jointly responsible for these five ministries; namely, national defense, the interior, foreign affairs, finance, and information. Neither one of them can be solely responsible for this.

Only when the four Cambodian parties of the SNC and the UN Transitional Authority are jointly responsible for the implementation, can the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement be implemented correctly and meticulously. Then Vietnam's nearly 13-year war of aggression in Cambodia will end and the Cambodian nation and people will recover their independence, peace, and security, and again will enjoy all kinds of rights and freedom.

Mixed Military Group Holds First Meeting

BK2812063091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0610 GMT 28 Dec 91

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 28 (AFP)—The top brass from Cambodia's four factions met in a United Nations forum Saturday as the first functional group of the Cambodian peace plan.

"This is a historic step in the peace process of Cambodia," said Ataul Karim, the head of the U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), at the opening session.

The Mixed Military Working Group, chaired by French Brigadier General Michel Loridon, is intended to resolve any military conflicts that might spring up despite a peace treaty ending Cambodia's civil war. It is also a way for the sides to exchange information for such purposes as mine-clearing operations.

"This is a 'doing' body. This is not a representative body," said Lieutenant Colonel Russell Stuart, an Australian who sits on the committee as a U.N. liaison officer.

"This will deal with conflict resolution prior to the arrival of UNTAC," the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, he said.

"It's bringing them into a forum where they can help themselves," Stuart added. "If they have the desire, and it appears they do, it has the potential to contribute in a practical way to the peace process."

In case of an alleged attack, the parties to the dispute will use the U.N. communications network set up in each factions' headquarters to talk with each other. If the problem cannot be resolved, it will be referred to the Mixed Military Working Group.

The group's agenda Saturday was primarily administrative, with discussion centered on rules and procedures and how it interacts with UNAMIC.

All members of the committee must hold the rank of general, but an exception was made for Mak Ben who represents the Khmer Rouge as a civilian but has directed many battles in his day.

Lt. Gen. Phan Thai represented the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) loyal to Son Sann.

Major General Kruoch Yoeum sits on the committee for ANKI (National Army for Kampuchean Independence), the military wing of FUNCINPEC which is loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Representing the Cambodian Government is Gen. Ke Kimyan.

All sides brought a number of advisors and observers who were seated in a ring around the Central Committee. Karim said the military working group is the most important means of maintaining the Cambodian cease-fire.

"I am confident we will be able to accomplish this task," he said.

More Reportage on 27 Dec National Assembly

Demonstration Law Adopted

BK2812100491 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Demonstration Law adopted by the First National Assembly at its extraordinary session on 27 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Demonstration Law:

Article 1. Meetings and gathering of groups and crowds for staging demonstrations are acceptable. However, meetings of groups or crowds in public places or on public roads, or marching demonstrations that can be detrimental to public tranquility, order, or security, are categorically prohibited.

Article 2. Marching demonstrations on public roads to express views on any issue may be held under the following conditions:

1. Violence cannot be used and arms or any other dangerous instruments cannot be carried;

2. Public tranquility, order, and security cannot be jeopardized; and

3. Authorities in each commune and ward through which a group of demonstrators will march are to be informed at least three days beforehand in writing, which will indicate the surnames, names, addresses, and signatures of three of the demonstration's organizers, as well as its objectives; locations; dates; streets; and the number of people participating.

If demonstrations are to be held in provincial towns or cities, they should be reported in writing to the autorities there.

Article 3. After receiving a notice, the authorities should issue a receipt for it. However, if the authorities concerned think that demonstrations have characteristics conducive to causing turmoil, they can ban the demonstration by issuing a decision within 48 hours, communicating this decision to the demonstration's organizers.

A copy of the decision should be forwarded immediately to higher authorities, within 24 hours.

In case there is disagreement, demonstration organizers may lodge a protest with the higher authorities. The latter should make a decision on the grievance with approval or rejection, then communicate the decision to the petitioner within 24 hours.

Article 4. If any demonstration takes place without local authorities being informed beforehand or without authorization from local authorities, the latter can take measures to forbid the demonstrators on the site.

After issuing the ban twice, if the demonstrators still adamantly refuse to discontinue their activities the local authorities are to act to disperse the demonstrators, using equipment that does not endanger life.

Article 5. If demonstrators are armed with dangerous weapons or equipment, security forces can remove the weapons and equipment. If the demonstrators persistently refuse to hand over the weapons and equipment, the security forces will be able to temporarily detain the demonstrators and remove their weapons and equipment.

After they calm down, the demonstrators are to be released, and the weapons and equipment returned to their owners, except when other offenses are found.

Article 6. If a peaceful demonstration turns violent or becomes a riot, the competent authorities are to take the most appropriate measures to stop the demonstration or riot.

The measures mentioned in Article 4 should be applied on a preliminary basis.

Article 7. Any demonstrator who resorts to violence to cause damage to other people's property or to public property, or who causes bodily harm or death to other people or officials on duty is to be punished according to the law in effect, depending on the degree of the committed offense.

Disguised demonstrators and those who incite demonstrators to violence are to be punished according to the law currently in effect.

Article 8. If any official carrying out his duty at a demonstration commits an offense, causing damage to people's property or public property, or causing injury or death to other people, is to be punished according to the law currently in effect, depending on the degree of the committed offense.

Article 9. Anyone taking advantage of a demonstration to commit burglary, looting, robbery, or other offenses is to be punished to the maximum degree according to the law currently in effect.

Article 10. Reparation of all damage caused by a demonstration should be the burden of the budget of the province or city concerned.

If damage is caused due to the fault or negligence of the victims themselves, the reparation of damages should be reduced or cancelled.

If the provincial or municipal authorities have found the offenders, they can sue the latter to repay the cost of the damage to the budget of the province or city.

Article 11. The law is promulgated in urgency.

Law Explained; Schools To Reopen

BK2812103491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1023 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 28 (AFP)—Phnom Penh's schools and universities, closed after student-organized unrest that led to bloodshed in the capital, will reopen January 8.

National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim, who met with more than 300 faculty members of the city's higher education institutions Saturday, made the announcement, according to a professor who attended the meeting.

The session was closed to the foreign media.

Chea Sim also explained Cambodia's newly passed demonstration laws, which strictly limit organized protests and require three days advance permission from the government.

He told the professors and administrators from the faculties of medicine, law and economics and Phnom Penh University that students must adhere to the laws or the Cambodian peace plan would fail, the source said.

All educational institutions were ordered closed December 23 after a weekend of violent unrest that began after a medical student was arrested outside an anti-corruption demonstration at City Hall.

When students regrouped later that day to press for human rights, a march around the city triggered a riot that left at least seven dead and forced the Army to move in and restore order.

January 7 is a national holiday in Cambodia, celebrating the ouster of the Khmer Rouge regime by Vietnamese troops and the installation of the Phnom Penh government in 1979.

Chea Sim Closes Session

BK2812092591 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Speech by National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim closing the National Assembly's extraordinary session on 27 December—recorded]

[Text] Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots: In one day, on 27 December 1991, members of our National Assembly have exerted physical and intellectual efforts to analyze in depth issues on the agenda vital to the political, economic, social, and daily life of our society and nation. These are also closely linked to national reconciliation and the implementation of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement.

Each issue on the agenda was meticulously discussed and then adopted by the entire assembly, taking into account the real situation which our country and nation are going through—one that is full of tension due to strikes and meddling by armed reactionaries whose goal is to destroy the nation's internal unity and prevent the implementation of the peace agreement.

Having due regard for the destiny of the motherland and the people, our assembly realizes the responsibility of the State of Cambodia's Government, as well as that of the institutions and all the levels of the state authorities in the new historical phase. All these have to shoulder the common burden of agreeing to implement the peace agreement and also to provide leadership and administration of political, economic, and social life in order to ensure stability and safety within society and the nation. It is true that although this new phase has provided new, favorable conditions, the immediate difficulties to be overcome are also numerous and (?not easy), particularly those in the economic and financial sectors. Economic and financial issues are providing arduous and most complicated tests at the moment. They require common understanding and patience on the part of all the masses and people. The state recognizes the people's right and freedom to express their wishes and views through legal meetings and demonstrations with the use of nonviolent means in a democratic manner. However, the state—which is duty-bound to protect the vital interests of the entire nation and to ensure safety, stability, security, and social order—cannot allow any citizen or group to use violent means to cause disaster and undermine public tranquility, order, and security contrary to the law [word indistinct]. The exerecise of proper democratic rights and freedom is certainly not anarchy.

In this sense, the entire assembly firmly believes that the law on demonstrations adopted at the extraordinary session of the National Assembly will be respected and fully observed by the masses and people to make the implementation of rights, freedom, and democracy in our society and nation appropriate and truly beneficial to the entire society. Our assembly holds that the irresponsible and unlimited use of rights and freedom is anarchy, and certainly endangers the entire society and nation, particularly destroying stability and social order, and affecting economic social development; it will also affect our state's prestige in the international arena. Whatever their form, demonstrations should be organized properly and granted permission to genuinely contribute to solving immediate problems of the country and nation. The unlimited use of freedom surely amounts to a deliberate or unintentional self-destruction of the nation. It also creates confusion, splits the nation, and brings about new diffculties which in turn result in bad consequences for every citizen and harming every aspect of social and national life. Furthermore, this will hinder the implementation of the peace accord and will again bring about endless bloodshed.

Along with this, our assembly acknowledges that the struggle against negative phenomena and corrupt practices of all degrees has not yet been carried out deeply and throroughly. In this context, the assembly calls on the masses and people to become actively involved and to cooperate with the government to find and establish measures to deal with—in a legal manner and on timely basis—the evil and corrupt individuals who use their authority to encroach upon the law, the people's rights and freedom and legitimate interests, or state property.

Furthermore, the assembly holds that the government should intensify careful control over establishments under its jurisdiction and all levels of state authorities in order to remove the remaining negative phenomena because they affect the confidence of the masses and people as well as the process of national reconstruction.

Along with this, the assembly believes that all the different levels of judicial institutions should increase their responsibility in order to ensure the expansion and consolidation of social legitimacy and to create respect for, and implementation of the law a genuine duty of every citizen —considering that law represents the will of the entire nation. This is a basic and indispensable factor that will ensure peace, stability, and social development in our society. It is necessary to further consolidate equality and social justice.

In this new and historical phase in particular, our assembly holds that it is even more necessary to have political stability in order to implement national reconciliation and the peace agreement, leading us to peace and social progress. Rifts, unrest, and lack of confidence are the stuff that fuel social tension, leading to a divisive war full of destruction and suffering.

Therefore, only the consolidation of national unity can lead us to national reconciliation and peace with dignity. Only through efforts aimed at vigorously and responsibly carrying out our respective tasks and only through labor deployed in production work can we improve living standards, strengthen national development, and end our people's poverty quickly.

In this sense, the National Assembly believes that close relations between state authorities and the people, and between all levels of cadres and workers, are the best way to solve all eventual problems.

In order to faithfully implement the policy of national reconciliation and the 23 October 1991 peace agreement in conformity with the trend of the era our assembly has decided to amend Article 4 of the State of Cambodia's Constitution to liberalize the state's political system. From now on, we will implement a liberal, democratic, and multi-party system, with all political parties competing peacefully with democratization and social progress. We will eliminate clanism, resentment, and vengeful acts within society; create a new atmosphere with solidarity, (?fraternity), and justice; and rally national forces to build a new state belonging to the citizens, depending on the citizens, and for the citizens, with the motto "independence, peace, freedom, democracy, neutrality, and social progress." Apart from these major issues, our assembly also discussed the implementation of various clauses of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement, which is the vital issue in the transitional period.

In sum, our assembly agrees in principle that the correct and faithful implementation of these clauses is an indispensable factor in ensuring the success of a comprehensive, just, and durable political solution to the Cambodian problem, and in ensuring stability, safety, and the daily life of the Cambodian people, and in particular ensuring the consolidation of Cambodia's national unity.

At the same time, the meticulous implementation of the peace accord is the most vital measure to end conflict, protect human rights, prevent the recurrence of the disaster of the past, safeguard peace in Cambodia, promote national reconciliation, and ensure that the Cambodian people use their rights of self-determination through free and correct elections.

In sum, with a view to contributing to the achievement of the above ideal, our assembly, after a debate and discussion, agreed on the following:

1. An appeal to all Cambodian compatriots to raise their threshold of love for the nation and motherland, as well as their spirit of responsibility to ensure the (?consolidation) of political stability within society and the nation, and to ensure that the various clauses of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement are genuinely implemented effectively.

2. An appeal to the Supreme National Council [SNC], to increase the spirit of honesty and mutual trust and the spirit of cooperation in order to peacefully resolve all differences over the implementation of the accord, and to fully cooperate with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to create a neutral political environment ensuring security and stability which will prevent the danger of the return to war. Ensure the Cambodian people's right to self-determination and their political future through free and proper elections. Ensure the defense of basic human rights and freedom in Cambodia. Ensure that the policy and criminal acts of the past absolutely do not occur again. Solve in a satisfactory manner the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons.

The entire assembly would like to express the firm belief that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman and most eminent leader, will fulfill his lofty mission to strengthen and expand the spirit of great national union and heighten the nation's identity in the international arena.

3. An appeal to the entire international community, particularly the signatories of the peace agreement, to acknowledge and strictly respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, and unity of Cambodia, and make contributions to the creation of political, economic, and social conditions in Cambodia, primarily the construction of necessary infrastructures to prepare for the repatriation of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons to ensure durable peace in Cambodia and Southeast Asia.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots: Due to the necessity of increasing the government's efficiency, the extraordinary session of our National Assembly has agreed with the government's proposal to make some changes in the government, mainly removing Ros Chhun from the post of minister of communications, transport, and posts and replacing him with So Khun.

As for the post of president of the People's Supreme Court [PSC] and attorney general attached to the PSC, changes are necessary because those in charge of the two institutions are due to retire. They will be replaced by Chan Sok as PSC president and Phet Phanu as attorney general. Apart from this, a number of lower level officials also have been dismissed by the government.

Our assembly welcomes and firmly believes in the government's determination to oppose corruption and promote social justice. Along with this, we appeal to all relevant establishments and to the masses and people in general to help create conditions for the government to achieve this noble goal in accordance with the law.

Along with a high appreciation of the government's efforts to improve the economic and financial situation of the country and nation, which is very complex in this new phase, our assembly has put forward many concrete proposals to the government designed to alleviate problems in the daily life of cadres, employees, workers, soldiers, and policemen, and to fully ensure the right to ownership and legitimate interests of our people, as well as private and foreign companies which are investing in our State of Cambodia.

Ensuring that the process toward the free market economy is moving along a correct path and responding to the interests of the entire society and nation represents an important phase. Our assembly is paying attention to this in order to overcome immediate political, economic, and social problems and to ensure necessary jobs for every citizen. Toward this goal, our assembly has proposed to our government that it take the necessary measures to (?reduce) the state budget (?deficit); increase savings; encourage investment in the agricultural, industrial, and handicraft sectors; repress and prevent economic offenses and corruption; defend state property; encourage local trade; and create jobs beneficial to society.

With a view to quickly advancing national development, our assembly holds that it is necessary to create favorable conditions for foreign investment in our Cambodia, which is currently becoming an interesting investment market in the region, with a potential for expansion in tourism. Linking local and foreign markets through the liberalization of goods circulation, the implementation of flexible and realistic tax policies, the establishment of financial markets, private banks, banking agents, insurance companies, and the timely promulgation of relevant laws is necessary and urgent.

On the educational, health, social, and information sectors, our assembly drew the government's attention to the creation of new possibilities through democratization and privatization aimed at creating a new atmosphere favorable to the increase of the potential of our people's intellect and health nationwide. At the same time, our Assembly thinks that in the new circumstances, our people are in a better position to safeguard and (?expand) national culture, traditions, and customs, and to protect and manage resorts, ancient temples, monasteries, pilgrimage sites, and national antiquities, which are the nation's soul and cultural heritage. In all this, the contribution of the international community, and in particular of UNESCO and other international organizations, is most welcome.

In sum, our assembly holds that combined measures should be taken to overcome the present difficulties and obstacles of this transitional period. Our assembly thinks that the combining of forces to solve all these acute problems is not the individual burden of the government; it is the common challenge facing our country and nation, who have to cooperate and solve it responsibly. Therefore, we should have a mechanism that ensures good relations among the government, all levels of state authorities, and the masses and people in order to allow good communications at all levels.

The common goal and aspiration of the government, our state authorities, and the masses and people is to strive toward more development in every sector, with the political and economic situation remaning stable, while the daily life improves and stabilizes. More than this, our entire nation is highly united with lofty ideals in the common cause of holding aloft the banner of peace and national reconciliation for social progress. On this foundation, our society and nation cannot be split or broken by any means.

While our people have travelled a long way and are approaching the real destination, our assembly appeals to the people and masses nationwide to remain calm and be politically mature to preserve stability, safety, and social order, which are the keys determining the destiny of peace and national reconciliation. Cooperation with patience in order to brave and overcome the country's economic and financial crisis during this transitional period is necessary for each citizen and the entire nation.

This is a difficult but unavoidable demand in order to preserve 13 years of social and national gains, as well as each citizen's legitimate interests. This is the most important time in our nation's history. The only path we have to follow is the one leading to peace. Compatriots, please heighten the spirit of love for the country and motherland, and be serious about making respective contributions to the process toward peace.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots: Although the extraordinary session of the National Assembly is short—only one day—the results achieved reflect every aspect of our society and nation. Most especially, the assembly has found an appropriate answer to rectify the troubled atmosphere our society and nation are going through and to improve it. This answer certainly requires the strength and active cooperation of our masses and people. Our motherland and nation will always survive and move forward. With the old year almost behind us, the gloomy and bitter occurrence that we have come across should be considered a mishap that should be buried so that we can rally new forces, new energy, and new ideas in 1992 to overcome problems both large and small, and to move toward our final and noble goal.

Our great national family should always unite. Schism, confusion, and unrest simply amount to suicide, creating conditions for the danger of the past to return. On the occasion of the new year 1992, I would like to express best wishes to Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and beloved compatriots. May you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings.

SRV Troops Said Deployed in Kampot

BK2812011891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] According to reports from Kampot Province, on 15 December 1991, the Vietnamese aggressors brought five truckloads of their troops from the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, totalling 170 Vietnamese soldiers armed with handguns, machine guns, and artillery pieces, to Dang Tong and Roung Veng in Tuk Meas District, Kampot Province.

On the same day, the Vietnamese aggressors brought another four truckloads of their troops, totalling 130 Vietnamese soldiers, and deployed them at Chamka Dong, Daeum Pring, west of Veal Vong, and at Veal Vong.

This is another event going hand in hand with the fact that the Vietnamese aggressors are gathering their troops from Vietnam and the Sino-Vietnamese border and deploying them along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border.

The Cambodian people and the international community are of the opinion that this is a direct and serious threat to the implementation of the peace agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. The Cambodian people in Kampot Province would like to report to the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], the UN Transitional Authority, and the UN Advance Mission and request that they take measures to jointly check properly and meticulously the Vietnamese aggressors' forces everywhere in Cambodia, particularly in the eastern and southwestern parts of Cambodia.

Fighting Delays Opening of Preah Vihear

BK3012033091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0311 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] BANGKOK, Dec 30 (AFP)—Artillery exchanges between Phnom Penh troops and Khmer Rouge guerrillas have forced the postponement of plans to allow tourists to visit ancient ruins in northern Cambodia, a Thai Army officer said Monday.

"There have been frequent artillery exchanges between Phnom Penh government troops in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Khmer Rouge guerrillas, particularly close to the Thai border just south of Preah Vihear, with some shells landing close to the ancient ruins," the officer said.

The officer, attached to the Thai Army's northeastern Suranaree Border Task Force, stationed in the border province of Sisaket, said the Cambodian forces were not engaging each other at close quarters but bombarded each other's positions with heavy artillery.

"Consequently, there has been no fighting in areas now under the observation of the United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), but further away the fighting continues," the officer said, adding that a Thai outpost near the site was recently hit by stray artillery shells.

Sisaket officials and their Cambodian counterparts in Siem Reap Province recently agreed to open the ancient Khmer temple ruins at Preah Vihear to Western tourists on December 3.

But this was postponed after a request from the Preah Vihear governor who was worried over the danger posed by the continued fighting.

Envoy Conveys Yeltsin Assurances to Sihanouk

BK2912140391 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 27 December, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, granted an audience to His Excellency [H.E.] Yuriy Myakotnykh, permanent envoy of the Russian Federation to Cambodia, who came to brief him about the changes in the former Soviet Union and to reaffirm normal bilateral relations of friendship in the future.

On that occasion, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk said he welcomed H.E. Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, who had taken over the tremendous role from H.E. Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union.

H.E. Yuriy Myakotnykh told Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk that H.E. Boris Yeltsin had sent a message to the samdech to reaffirm the commitment to Cambodia that the Russian Federation should continue in place of the Soviet Union. The Russian envoy added that despite recent changes, relations between the Russian Federation and Cambodia remained normal.

Indonesia

Sutrisno: ABRI Supports Commission Report

BK2712123291 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1145 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Dili (E. Timor), Dec 27 (ANTARA)—Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI)

General Try Sutrisno on Friday said, ABRI respected and supported results of investigation on the November 12 Dili incident by the National Investigation Commission (KPN).

ABRI will formulate the follow-ups of the KPN's findings, General Sutrisno told ANTARA upon arrival here.

The reports on the Dili incident presented by the KPN to President Suharto Thursday stated among other things that the number of fatalities was around 50 people while over 91 others were injured.

The commission is of the view that those involved in the November 12 incident should face sanctions and have their case processed in accordance with the country's law which is based on the state ideology Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

Gen. Sutrisno is in the 27th province of Indonesia for a two day visit during which he will attend a get-together and Christmas celebration with the East Timorese, ABRI members in the province, and local public figures.

About his Christmas message to the predominantly Catholic East Timor, he said "I wish a very merry Christmas and a happy new year for all the East Timorese."

"In Christmas which is full of love and peace, I call on the people of East Timor to foster unity and integrity and to continue development programs to make the future peaceful and prosperous," he said.

Alatas Calls Report 'Comprehensive'

BK2712121491 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1140 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 27 (ANTARA)—Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas has expressed his hope that the world would have clearer and more balanced understanding on the November 12 incident in Dili following the release of the preliminary report by the National Investigation Commission (KPN) on the incident.

"I hope that with the preliminary report of the KPN, which in my opinion has fulfilled what President Suharto expected, namely to make a comprehensive and objective report on all aspects of the incident, the world will come to a clear and balanced understanding on the incident," Minister Alatas said here Friday.

The preliminary report was presented by Chairman of the KPN M. Jaelani to President Suharto Thursday after the commission had made a two-week inquiry in Dili.

According to Alatas, he has so far not received any reaction yet from other countries.

It might be too early for them to give reactions since the report was just released Thursday, the minister said.

In the preliminary report, the KPN among other things said they had strong reasons to believe that the number of the victims in the incident was about 50 people and over 91 others were injured.

The KPN also said that the November 12 incident had provocative elements planned by the anti-integration group Fretilin trouble maker movement (GPK).

Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in an interview with the ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corportation] radio in Canberra said the results of the inquiry of the KPN were much better than many people expected.

In a transcript of the recorded interview received by ANTARA from the Australian Embassy here Friday, Evans said the report was written in a crisp and sharp language.

He also praised the commission report for not being a whitewash of the previous reports especially regarding to the number of the victims, which previously claimed only 19 people died .

"I think from all those points of view, it is, as I began by saying, a very encouraging report", Evans said.

Subversion Charges To Be Pressed

BK2812122691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1000 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 28 (AFP)—Jakarta will press subversion charges, which carry a maximum penalty of death, on 14 people detained following last month's shooting at Dili in East Timor, press reports said here Saturday.

East Timor police chief Colonel Ishak Kodijat said in Dili on Saturday that 14 of the 33 detained following the shooting would be charged with subversion, the SUARA PEMBARUAN daily reported.

Kodijat had said earlier this month that eight of the 32 detained in Dili would be charged with subversion.

Jakarta newspapers Thursday, citing unnamed sources in Dili, said a total of 37 people were detained following the November 12 shooting.

An official report released this week said around 50 people lost their lives in the incident. Witnesses present at the shooting have said the figure could have been as high as 115.

The SUARA PEMBARUAN said Kodijat on Saturday handed over documents on the case of one of the detainees to the state's high prosecutors office in Dili.

Kodijat said the detainee, identified only as GDS, worked at the Dili state hospital and was a sympathiser [of] the East Timor pro-independence movement Fretilin.

The newspaper also quoted the head of the office, Benito (eds: one name), as saying "GDS" would be tried for subversion.

Fretilin has been fighting for an independent state since Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony and declared it the country's 27th province in 1975. The United Nations continue to view Lisbon as the administrator of the territory.

"GDS," Kodijat said, was suspected of leading several anti-Indonesian demonstrations in East Timor in the past few years, including when Pope John Paul II visited the region in October 1989.

Replacement of Dili Military Chiefs Ordered

BK2812085091 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0811 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 28 (ANTARA/OANA)—President Suharto as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) here Saturday decided to replace chief of the 9th Military Command (Udayana) Maj. Gen. Sintong Panjaitan and Chief of the East Timor Operational Command Brig. Gen Rudolf Samuel Warouw as a follow-up of the Dili incident.

"The head of state believed that whatever happened on November 12 in Dili (East Timor) the local security officials are responsible for the incident," Minister/State Secretary Murdiono told newsmen here Saturday.

The 9th Military Command (Udayana) covers Bali, East and West Nusatenggara and East Timor.

Murdiono further said President Suharto who was accompanied by Vice President Sudharmono Saturday morning held a meeting with Defense Minister L.B. Murdani, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, Home Affairs Minister Rudini, Commander of the Indonesia Armed Forces (ABRI) Gen. Try Sutrisno, Attorney General Singgih, Chief of the Indonesian Army Gen. Edi Sudrajat, and the Minister/State Secretary.

At the meeting, according to Murdiono, President Suharto asked for opinion and consideration from the government officials who were present at the time about follow-ups of as well as other development aspects in East Timor.

Asked when the replacement would be effective, Murdiono said it should be decided by the ABRI commander.

"I think the ABRI commander will carry out the president's instruction as soon as possible," He said.

President Suharto received reports by KPN last Thursday.

On why the replacement must wait for an instruction from the president and not from the ABRI commander only, Murdiono said, "It is because the president pays a very serious attention to the incident."

At the meeting, President Suharto also instructed Attorney General Singgih to take stern legal measures against all initiating the incident and against the one stabbing an Army major and a soldier.

The ABRI commander was ordered to find those missing following the incident.

"Such a step was important because until today there is still a difference on the death toll," Murdiono said.

Meanwhile, Gen. Edi Sudrajat was instructed to set up an honorary council with the task of evaluating all the policies and steps taken by the local security officials when handling the November 12 incident.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was given the task of countering all negative reports abroad which might ruin Indonesia's image.

Commenting on the incident itself, the president said, "The incident and everything happened before it should teach us a lesson."

He also asked all government officials to carry out an introspection, Murdiono said.

Sutrisno Appoints 2 New Generals

BK3012053291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] JAKARTA, Dec 30 (AFP)—Indonesian Armed Forces Chief General Try Sutrisno Monday named two generals to replace the top military brass responsible for East Timor who were recalled in the wake of a bloody shooting there last month.

Try told journalists that Major General Mantiri would replace Major General Sintong Panjaitan as chief of the Bali-based Udayana military command which oversees East Timor.

He also said that Brigadier General Theo Syafei would replace Brigadier General Rudolf Samuel Warouw as the military operational chief in East Timor.

Try said that the two new commanders "meet the criteria of the region," but did not give any details. Both Mantiri and Theo, are Christians. The former Portuguese colony of East Timor is predominantly Roman Catholic.

Try said that Panjaitan and Warouw were "recalled to the army headquarters." He declined to elaborate.

Indonesian President Suharto, used his capacity as "highest commander" of the Armed Forces for the first time, on Saturday ordered the replacement of Panjaitan and Warouw saying they were responsible for the November 12 shooting in Dili, East Timor.

A investigation team set up by Suharto a week after the shooting Thursday said some 50 people had died and 90 others were still missing following the shooting by a group of soldiers acting "over the level of acceptable norms."

The military have said that 19 people died after troops shot in self-defence against an attacking mob of demonstrators at a Dili cemetery.

Other sources, including witnesses, have said the shooting was unwarranted and put the death toll as high as 115.

Mantiri was the planning assistant to army chief General Eddy Sudrajat and had served as military operational commander in East Timor before Warouw.

Warouw's replacement, Syafei, was the deputy chief of the Sriwijaya command in south Sumatra.

Philippines

NDF Criticizes One-Year Base Termination Notice

HK3012093991 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF] in Central Luzon does not believe the one-year withdrawal period for the U.S. forces in the country will be realized. According to Jun Miranda, overall chief of the NPA in Central Luzon, and Nilo Monteverde, NDF spokesman, Malacanang's decision to serve a one-year notice of termination for the withdrawal of the foreign forces in the country had the United States' blessing. In view of this, they said the foreigners could influence the coming election to enable them to get some favor from the leadership for the retention of the bases in the country.

[Begin Miranda recording] [passage indistinct] According to Drilon, whether it can be changed depends on the next administration. So, after this year, there will be a phaseout, and then talks will be held with the next administration, and the Senate's decision [on rejection of the bases] will become useless. [end recording]

That was Jun Miranda, NPA chief.

Government Denies 'Conspiracy'

HK3012094091 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 30 Dec 91

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Text] Malacanang has denied that the decision to serve the United States with a one-year notice of termination for the Subic Naval Base is merely a stage play. This is Malacanang's reaction to an allegation made by the National Democratic Front [NDF] that the government is in some kind of conspiracy with the United States regarding the one-year phaseout of Subic.

In a statement issued by the NDF, it stressed that the act of serving a notice of termination is just a show in that there could still be an extension for the retention of Subic in the country.

Meanwhile, Assistant Press Secretary Lourdes Siytangco asserted that the government is ready to deliver the notice of termination, approved by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and signed by Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Pablo Suarez, to the U.S. Embassy tomorrow. According to Siytangco, the agreement between the Philippines and the United States under this administration is final. Siytangco stressed that this is a last-ditch effort by the NDF because it cannot believe that this time the government is serious in its decision to remove the U.S. forces in the country.

Aquino Allocates Money

HK3012113491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has allocated 100 million pesos for the conversion of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin recording] The president said today that the fund will be taken out of her contingent fund, pending approval of a supplemental budget for the conversion of the two military bases next year.

Tomorrow, the government will formally serve the one-year notice of termination for the U.S. forces in Subic Naval Base. Along with the serving of the one-year withdrawal period for the American forces in the country, the government will also implement conversion plans for Clark and Subic. Earlier, due to the continued delay in the Congress' approval of a bill creating the Bases Conversion Authority, President Aquino named lead agencies that will temporarily manage Subic's conversion. The agencies include the Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Department of Transportation and Communications. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Malacanang has rejected a proposal for holding a referendum on the issue of the U.S. military bases in the country. Again, Tanny Rodriguez reports:

[Begin recording] Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said it is time for the government to close this political issue of the military bases. According to the executive secretary, the government has taken all necessary actions on this and it is only right to accept that the remaining U.S. base in the Philippines will be shut down at the end of next year. Tomorrow, the government will issue the one-year termination notice to the U.S. Embassy through Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Pablo Suarez.

In related news, Drilon said Malacanang will include Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon's proposal to create an autonomous region for Olongapo and nearby provinces, with the proposed bill for the creation of the Bases Conversion Authority. He said Malacanang has to study this thoroughly, especially its political implications, because its formation may become a precedent for other areas in the country. [end recording]

Termination Called Inevitable

HK3012094291 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 30 Dec 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Subic Withdrawal is a Mere Technicality"]

[Text] Negotiations intending to forge an executive agreement governing the three-year withdrawal period for the U.S. Subic Bay facility have been terminated. The Philippine government shall re-issue the notice of termination that shall give the Americans one year to vacate the facility.

The talks between the two governments sought a compromise arrangement in the aftermath of the Senate's rejection of the proposed treaty extending the lease on the base. A three-year withdrawal time frame was agreed upon by the Senate and the Executive. Our Constitution dictates that no foreign troops may be allowed to be stationed on our territory in the absence of a duly-ratified treaty after the September 1991 expiration of the Military Bases Agreement.

The three-year arrangement could be a workable compromise, in the light of constitutional dictate, only if it is clear that the additional period granted U.S. military forces is intended to allow an orderly phase-out and a simultaneous phase-in of conversion plans for the facility.

The Constitution also commands the Philippine government to forbid the deployment of nuclear weapons on our territory.

To suit the requirements of the Constitution—made more salient by the Senate's rejection of the proposed treaty—our government asked the Americans to draw up a schedule of withdrawal and to commit themselves against the storage of nuclear weapons in Subic.

The schedule of withdrawal shall provide us a basis for implementing the conversion arrangements for the base. Such a detailed timetable shall, no doubt, allow U.S. forces little leeway. But it shall greatly enhance our ability to move in alternative uses for the facility and cushion the adverse economic implications of American withdrawal.

The Americans demanded "operational freedom" during what should be a three-year phase-out period. The demand for "operational freedom" is another term for "unhampered use," that reprehensible clause that made the earlier Military Bases Agreement unpalatable for those concerned with the integrity of our sovereignty.

Too, the Americans insisted on applying the standard policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons in any of their military facilities. The policy has become an anachronism in light of changes altering the basic features of international politics.

Given American insistence on the above points, it has not become possible for the Philippine government to conclude an executive agreement granting three more years for Subic. President Aquino's decision to call off the negotiations and re-issue the notice of termination is a move forced by U.S. intransigence.

The U.S. cannot be allowed to have its way. To do so will be politically costly for the Philippine government. It shall come under severe nationalist pressure for caving in and granting the Americans de facto extension for Subic without the benefit of a treaty.

At any rate, the period granted for U.S. withdrawal from Subic is a mere technicality.

The historic moment of decision has passed. That moment happened last September when the Philippine Senate voted to reject the draft treaty granting an extension period for U.S. military presence in the archipelago.

In the great treaty debate, all the symbolisms were mustered and all the implications were exhaustively examined. The decision was for termination. The negotiations for an extended phase-out period were simply a minor quest for marginal comfort given the short-term costs of a grand decision.

Whether the Americans complete their pullout in one year or in three, the costs and benefits will be relatively uniform. The failure of the negotiations for a three-year phaseout arrangement merely hastens the inevitable.

When the Philippine government finally serves the notice of termination—withdrawn earlier in a moment of great emotion and diminished wisdom—it must make clear that the act is irreversible.

There is danger in reading the re-issuance of the notice of termination as an act intending to postpone the final resolution of the bases question. The matter should not be left open for the succeeding administration to tinker with and re-open the wounds of the great bases debate. To do so would be to invite American intervention in the conduct of the crucial electoral exercise to be held in May.

Abadia Denies Reports of New Coup Plot

HK3012062291 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, the Armed Forces chief of staff, has denied speculations that a new coup d'etat will be launched before the elections. Abadia said the Armed Forces is confident the elections will be pushed through, adding that the military is prepared to protect the people from any violence which may occur.

Meanwhile, on former rebel leader Gregorio Honasan, Abadia said he has instructed his Commanders to arrest Honasan. He stressed that the government's deadline for peace talks with the rebel soldiers has expired. Abadia also said he was only joking when he told the press that he will resign if he fails to capture Honasan. On the other hand, Abadia said he has instructed his men to take precautions against the New People's Army rebels regarding the 72-hour cease-fire over the new year.

Military Said To Violate Christmas Cease-Fire

HK2712143891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] The New People's Army [NPA] in Northern Luzon severely criticized the military for violating the Christmas cease-fire. According to Lieutenant Crispin of the Molila Command of the NPA in Northern Luzon, Brigadier General Ernesto Calupig of the Northern Luzon Command led the cease-fire violation. Calupig supposedly suggested the 10 day cease-fire in Northern Luzon, especially in the Marag Valley of Kalinga-Apayao and Cagayan; however, they were the ones who violated their own cease-fire.

Noli Libertad, spokesman of the NPA in Northern Luzon, said that the men of the 50th Infantry Battalion started their offensive on Marag Valley on 22 December and it lasted until 24 December. On 22 December, a Tora-Tora airplane reportedly dropped bombs in different barangays in both Connor and Pinukpok, Kalinga-Apayao for two hours. On 23 December, another Tora-Tora plane and a Howitzer artillery also conducted an attack. These attacks continued until midnight, 24 December. Casualties during the said incidents were reported; but it could not be established whether they were NPA rebels or innocent civilians.

72-Hour New Year Cease-Fire Takes Effect

HK3012065691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] The 72-hour New Year cease-fire declared by the government with the communist rebels has taken effect this morning. Radio ng Bayan interviewed Defense Undersecretary Eduardo Ermita on this matter.

[Begin Ermita recording] The cease-fire that was declared by our president upon the recommendation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] started last midnight and will end at midnight, 1 January. Just as happened at Christmas, the cease-fire will be for three days. However,in other places, especially in Samar and Negros Occidental, there have been violations by the New People's Army [NPA]. This time we are hoping that during this coming New Year, which is tomorrow, the NPA or any of the armed groups will not violate the cease-fire. [end recording]

At the same time, Ermita also said that the entire AFP and the Philippine National Police [PNP] are expected to maintain peace and order during the New Year celebrations tomorrow. He also stressed that it is illegal for any soldiers or policemen to use firearms to make a noise during the festivities.

[Begin Ermita recording] The AFP, along with the PNP are tasked with maintaining peace and order. This means that they are allowed to conduct policing activities because these are not necessarily counter-insurgency operations. This is in order to have enough law enforcers who will enforce the law during the coming New Year.

As we all know, Jun, during the New Year there are lots of firecrackers being used and there is a strong temptation to use firearms to make a noise. So I guess I should take the opportunity to call on our countrymen to follow the orders of the authorities, especially the orders of AFP chief, General Abadia, and PNP director, General Nazareno, that policemen and soldiers should not use their firearms to make a noise. [end recording]

Aquino To Witness Senate Leadership Transition

HK2812032691 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino will personally witness the oath taking of new Senate President Neptali Gonzales on 1 January 1992 to show her support for the new leadership and the ouster of outgoing Senate President Jovito Salonga. The president will be the guest of honor at the oath taking ceremony, which will be held at the Senate session hall on 1 January. Malacanang has denied any participation in the removal of Salonga, who, according to pro-Aquino senators, was responsible for the slow passing of bills certified urgent by the president. Apart from Gonzales, other new Senate officials like Senate President pro tempore Ernesto Maceda, Majority Floor Leader Alberto Romulo, acting Senate Secretary Lorenzo Leynes and acting Senate Sergeant at Arms Ismael Aparri, will also be sworn into office.

Aquino Recognizes New Commonwealth of Republics

HK2812070391 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has formally recognized and accepted the establishment of a commonwealth of three republics of the former Soviet Union. According to the president, she salutes the transition of power in the Soviet Union. At the same time, the president said she hopes the leaders of the commonwealth can resolve the problems they are facing in order to maintain peace. Among those given diplomatic cognizance by the Philippines are the first rebel republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

Thailand

Suchinda To Discuss Security Links in Hanoi

BK3012010991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 91 p A2

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Hanoi—Thai Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun will hold discussions on possible cooperation in security matters with Le Duc Anh, one of the most powerful politburo members, during his Jan 6-8 visit to Vietnam.

According to a Thai official, Suchinda and Anh will attend a "restricted" discussion to be joined by only four people from each side to explore new cooperation in security-related fields.

"It is the first time that the two military leaders from Thailand and Vietnam will hold talks in such a manner," he said.

The official said Thailand and Vietnam should widen their cooperation in security-related activities, as well as economic matters, because it would strengthen ties between the two countries. He did not elaborate.

He said that both former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and former supreme commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, during their visits to Hanoi, had touched on security-related cooperation but this had not been followed up.

A number of top generals will be among the 20-member delegation during Suchinda's three-day visit, which will also take him to Ho Chi Minh City.

He is scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and other top leaders including Defence Minister Doan Khue.

Suchinda has asked to visit the Camb Ranh naval base during his trip, but Vietnam has not yet responded. If Vietnam agrees, Suchinda will be the first foreign dignitary to visit the base, which has been cited in the past as the main military threat to the security of Southeast Asia.

Suchinda's visit will be followed by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's visit here on Jan 15-17. Kiet invited Anan to visit Hanoi during his recent trip to Bangkok.

The Thai official said Thailand and Vietnam will conclude a fishing cooperation agreement which has taken almost a decade to negotiate. It will be the first such agreement between Vietnam and a foreign country.

The official said there is also a possibility the consular issue will be resolved during Anan's visit. Hanoi asked to set up a consular office in Thailand's northeast but the Thai military objected for security reasons.

"We have found a way out that would satisfy both sides," the official said without elaboration.

Vietnam has agreed to Thailand'request to establish a consular office in Ho Chi Minh City, which is expected to be opened by mid-1992. The Cabinet will consider this issue at its weekly meeting tomorrow.

—Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun will visit Vietnam between Jan 15 and 17, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman said yesterday.

The premier's trip to Vietnam, which will be a historic development in the Thai-Vietnamese relations, is the first to be made by a top Thai leader in decades.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said the premier will bring along during the visit a delegation comprising representatives of the Board of Trade, the Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Bankers' Association.

Sakthip said Anan's visit reciprocates Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Thailand in October.

The spokesman said Anan will discuss with Kiet ways to boost trade and economic cooperation and Thailand's proposal to serve as a centre for the economic development of the Indochinese nations.

He said Thailand expected to sign during the visit an agreement with Vietnam on fishing cooperation.

Official Urges Sincere Dealings With Cambodians

BK2512023991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Dec 91 p B8

[Text] Deputy Commerce Minister Mr Pridiyathon Thewakun has urged Thai investors to be sincere in dealings with Cambodia, and to treat their counterparts in the neighbouring country on an equal footing.

At a seminar, "The Direction of Trade and Investment between Thailand and Cambodia" held at Aranyaprathet, Prachin Buri, on Dec 21 the minister urged Thailand and Cambodia to build on the economic relations founded on geographical proximity and cultural similarities.

He said Thailand has proved it can offer goods in demand for Cambodian consumers while Cambodia can offer natural resources and raw materials to Thailand.

He commented that in the older days of political difficulties, Cambodia had to depend on Thai traders and investors. But now there are traders and investors from many countries, ready to interact with Cambodia. Cambodia has alternatives for trade and investment if Thailand does not treat Cambodian traders sincerely and on equal footing.

He said there are now greater opportunities for trade with Cambodia, guaranteed by the peace settlement, ceasefire, return of refugees, and the planned general election.

He said the Thai government has encouraged trade liberalization and private investment in Cambodia. The government has helped Cambodia integrate through the UN, and expects Cambodia to trust the Thais more than others.

Pridiyathon said he believed the trade barriers between the two countries came from a misunderstanding among officials of the two sides. Some authorities did not understand government policy and some thought that they were obliged to authorize local deals.

"In previous years, some organizations had a policy grounded in national interest and national security. But from now on that basis is no more necessary for relations between the two countries," he said.

Official Says Cambodian Unrest Internal Affair

BK2312082491 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 23 Dec 91 p 4

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun yesterday described as Cambodia's internal affair Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan's decision on Saturday to postpone his return to Cambodia for a Supreme National Council meeting because of reported unrest in Phnom Penh. Asked about the demonstrations staged by people in Phnom Penh, Wichian said that he could not make any comments on this matter because it was Cambodia's internal affair.

Asked about the upcoming election in Cambodia, the deputy foreign minister said that the election would be held after a UN peace force was sent to make election arrangements. Wichian said that a group of UN officials had entered Camboida via Thailand on Saturday.

Regarding a plan to open another border checkpoint on the Thai-Cmabodian border, he said that he did not know any details of the plan.

Police Helicopter Fired on at Burmese Border

BK3012022791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 91 p A1

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—A helicopter carrying Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat and his entourage was hit by unidentified gunfire during a flight over the Thai-Burmese border in this eastern province, a border patrol police source said yesterday.

The helicopter suffered only slight roter damage and landed safely at Mae Sot airport, the source said. All the passengers, including Pol Gen Sawat's wife, were uninjured, according to the source.

The source said the shooting took place not long after the helicopter picked up Sawat's entourage from a school ground in Tak's Tha Song Yang district.

The helicopter was shot at twice while it was flying along Moey River which borders Tha Song Yang and a Karen ethnic stronghold which has been seized by Rangoon forces, the source said.

Both shots hit the aircraft's rotors but did not affect the flight.

The source said visibility was poor at the time of the shooting and Thai officials could not identify the source of the gunfire.

Asa Meets With Beninese Counterpart, Offers Aid

BK2412043891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English GMT 24 Dec 91

[Text] Thailand has offered technical assistance to the Republic of Benin in the form of training programs on agriculture and rice cultivation. The assistance was offered by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin during his meeting with visiting Beninese Foreign Minister Theodore Holo at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday morning. During the meeting, both sides agreed to promote bilateral relations. Benin is willing to receive assistance from Thailand to help develop the country. Both countries also agreed to increase trade cooperation between them. At present, trade volume between Thailand and Benin is still minimal. Benin could serve as a springboard for Thai exports to other countries in West Africa.

Foreign Minister Asa also hosted a luncheon for his Beninese counterpart with representatives from the Thai private sector attending.

Government Happy With GATT Compromise Paper

BK2612023891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Dec 91 p B1

[Text] Thailand is happy with the compromise paper drafted by the GATT chief and is hopeful that it will enable all parties negotiating world trade reforms to conclude the Uruguay Round successfully, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday.

Overall, the paper issued by GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel was acceptable and should be viewed as the "best possible basis" for liberalizing world trade in goods and services, although some points fell short of Thailand's expectations, the minister said at a press conference yesterday.

"The Commerce Ministry supported GATT's attempt to produce this draft agreement which has been harshly criticized by the US and the EC even though we are not fully satisfied with it, particularly with the proposed agricultural reforms," the minister said.

Amaret's statement represents the official Thai response to Dunkel's package, which aims to bring the annual trillion dollar trade in agriculture and services under free trade rules, lower tariffs, protect intellectual property, eliminate clothing import quotas, curb industrial subsidies and internationalize government purchases.

He also called for other GATT contracting parties, particularly the major economic powers, to consider the draft agreement "fairly" and take into account the long-term benefits of liberalizing world trade.

Without an agreement, international trade would enter "the most chaotic period" and send the world economy into a tailspin, Amaret said.

Thailand's stance differed from those of the US and the European Community—two major players in the world trade talks—who feel that the world trade draft still has not bridged their differences and that the Uruguay Round remains in jeopardy. Japan has also responded coldly to the proposal.

Dunkel drew up the 450-page proposal, a detailed text covering virtually every area of trade, after the US, the EC and other GATT members were unable to agree on a draft text largely because of problems over cutting farm subsidies.

The GATT chief gave the 108 members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) until Jan 13 to decide whether to accept his proposal.

At yesterday's press conference, Amaret made it clear that the package was acceptable to Thailand although some of the 15 sectors being negotiated might not meet the country's expectations, particularly in regard to agriculture.

Thailand has placed a high priority on bringing agriculture under the free trade regime. Heavily-subsidized crops from the EC and the US have depressed world prices, adversely affecting farm exports from Thailand.

Under Dunkel's proposal, export subsidies should be cut by 36 per cent, with a 24 per cent drop in the volume of subsidized exports by 1999 envisaged, using 1986-90 as a base period.

Domestic farm supports should be reduced by 20 per cent and minimum market access for farm products guaranteed. Non-tariff barriers such as import bans and quotas must be transformed into equivalent tariffs.

UNHCR Ends Southeast Asian Antipiracy Program

BK2312091291 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Dec 91

[Text] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has announced the termination of its anti-piracy program in the Southeast Asian seas as satisfactory results have been gained from the program. The UNHCR program was carried out over the past 10 years to provide protection to boat people from Indochina then exposed to great danger in the open seas. Evaluation of the program has been carried out by a joint team from the United States and Canada. It was found that acts of piracy in the area have been reduced drastically. The Thai Government has rendered full assistance and cooperation to the program. After the termination of the UNHCR program, surveillance by the Royal Thai Navy and other agencies concerned will be maintained and (?made at the expense) of the Thai Government. The operation will be meant to protect Thai fishing trawlers from the threat of piracy.

Sunthon on 'Loophole' Over Premier Nomination

BK2312015791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Dec 91 pp A1, A2

[Text] National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, commenting for the first time on an apparent constitutional loophole that might empower him to appoint the next prime minister, said yesterday what is stated in the Constitution must be observed.

But he said the controversial point in the newly-promulgated charter requires interpretation by legal experts.

The Constitution's provisional section apparently retains Sunthon's power to nominate the next prime minister and countersign His Majesty the King's endorsement of the nomination. According to the Constitution, the power given Sunthon under the NPKC-adopted interim Constitution will remain in effect "until a (post-election) Cabinet is in place".

Speaking to reporters at the Thephasdin Stadium in the National Stadium complex where he presided over the last bout of boxing champion Khaosai Galaxy, Sunthon was asked to comment on what is likely to become a major constitutional controversy.

Asked if he or the speaker of the House is empowered to nominate the prime minister after the next election, Sunthon said: "It's told in the Constitution."

The Constitution's ordinary section authorizes the House speaker to nominate the prime minister. But legal experts said the House speaker's power is superceded by that given Sunthon in the provisional section.

When a reporter noted that the charter's provisional section apparently would prevent the speaker of the House from selecting a prime minister after the next election, Sunthon said: "Now that this Constitution has been enacted, everything must comply with its letters."

The controversial point was passed unnoticed when the military-established interim legislature considered the draft of the charter in its second and final readings early this month.

Opponents of the draft, who formed a national movement, focused their attention on clauses that would enable the military to assert political power through an enhanced Senate. Some of the clauses were later amended.

Critics said those who drafted the charter worked under the military's influence and placed "several decoys" in the document to mislead the opponents.

Sunthon, who retired as supreme commander at the end of September, said yesterday the military had nothing to do with the latest controversial point in the Constitution.

"I'm not a lawyer. I don't know what they have put in there (the Constitution). But I have taken all the blame," he said.

Sunthon vowed to "remain neutral" when legal experts debate the controversy.

"Let them do the interpretation. Meanwhile, I will remain neutral, as much as I can do," he said.

He added that he had not thoroughly looked into the new charter.

"I can't say much because this directly concerns me. Next time I may have a spokesman or secretary speak on my behalf," he said.

Deputy NPKC chairman and Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday echoed Sunthon's views on the Constitution.

"Just like what he said," Suchinda told reporters who asked him similar questions. "We will respect what the Constitution says and that's it."

National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, meanwhile, reaffirmed his own interpretation over the weekend, saying the next prime minister will be appointed by the House speaker.

"Remember I have always been correct whenever I make a point (on a crucial issue)? Just remember my words today. The House speaker will be the one to countersign the royal appointment of the (next) prime minister," Ukrit told TV reporters.

The Students Federation of Thailand [SFT] yesterday deplored what it described as a "neatly-hidden deceitful" clause of the new Constitution.

"All the Thai people have been deceived. The NPKC's claim that it will not get involved in the formation of the new government is just a lie," the SFT said in a statement.

Constitutional 'Loophole' Viewed

BK2012023291 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Dec 91 p A1, A2

[Text] An apparent constitutional loophole that might allow the chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) to nominate the next prime minister triggered waves of criticism and denials yesterday.

The controversial point has been discovered in the newly-promulgated Constitution's provisional section which states that the NPKC's power, given under the military-adopted interim Constitution, will remain intact until a Cabinet is sworn in after the next general election.

Articles 21 and 23 of the interim charter empower NPKC Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to nominate the prime minister and countersign His Majesty the King's endorsement of the nomination.

The new Constitution was passed by the interim legislature early this month after several amendments. While tumultuous debate focused on other "undemocratic" points, apparently nobody noticed a change which effectively extends the tenure of the NPKC.

According to the original draft of the new charter, the NPKC would cease to exist on the day a post-election Parliament convenes its first session, which will take place before a government is formed.

The charter's ordinary section empowers the House of Representatives to nominate the prime minister. But with Article 21 and 23 of the interim Constitution in effect until a post-election Cabinet is in place, many people foresee a major constitutional controversy.

"The Constitution is obviously ambiguous," said Democrat Surin Phitsuwan. "It requires interpretation."

Surin added, however, that the NPKC should not interpret the new charter to its own favour.

"One must not try to exploit legal loopholes," he said.

Thammasat University lecturer, Likhit Thirawekhin, who was a member of a committee that drew up the first version of the new Constitution, said the apparent loophole was caused by "carelessness".

Likhit said he did not think the NPKC would exploit the loophole.

"I don't think anybody will dare to exploit it, otherwise there will be a crisis," he said.

He noted that if the NPKC was empowered to appoint the new prime minister, the planned general election would be "a waste of time".

Osot Kosin, who chaired an ad hoc committee that presented the final constitution draft to the National Assembly, strongly denied that the NPKC chairman would be authorized the name the next prime minister.

"That is not true," Osot said. But he declined to explain the Controversial print.

Somphop Hotrakit, who chairs an ad hoc committee vetting the Electoral Bill, admitted that a big constitutional question was imminent.

"I just saw it," he told reporters "This is very, very troublesome."

Like Likhit, Somphop is a member of the committee that drew up the original constitutional draft.

Two members of Osot's committee—Phichai Watsanasong and Khunying Nantaka Supraphatanant—denied knowledge about the possible loophole.

The constitution draft drew nationwide opposition because it sought to enable the military to wield its political power through the Senate. Mounting pressure forced the National Assembly to deprive the non-elected Senate of the power to join MPs in nominating the prime minister.

NPKC Power 'Should' End as Parliament Begins

BK2512021591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Dec 91 p A8

[Editorial: "Article 216 must not be taken too literally"]

[Text] Even when they had no explicit constitutional role in parliamentary politics, Thai military leaders in the past always had a big say in who would be the prime minister and which parties would form a government coalition.

In the general election of 1986, the Democrat Party won 100 of the 347 seats in the House of Representatives. It led the formation of a four-party government coalition, yet its leader, Phichai Ratthakun, couldn't become prime minister—mainly because he lacked military support. Consequently, the Democrat-led coalition had to invite Gen Prem Tinsulanon to stay on as prime minister.

After the general election in 1988, Prem declined to serve another term of premiership. Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who was then the army chief and supreme commander, personally negotiated with leaders of various parties to let Chat Thai leader Gen Chatchai Chunhawan assume the premiership. Chatchai soon reciprocated by giving Chawalit a free hand in running the armed forces, especially in reshuffling and promoting senior army officers.

At present, the military leaders on the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] have a free rein on the armed forces. The Defence Ministry is headed by ex-navy chief Adm Praphat Kritsnachan. And Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun relies on the defence minister for advice on military affairs.

The NPKC leaders are also said to have close connections with several parties, notably Sammakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and Social Action. Thus, they are in a strong position to help make or break the next government. But this is not all. The new Constitution contains provisions clearly designed to give constitutional legitimacy to military intervention in national politics during the next four years.

The NPKC chairman has been given the authority to select 270 people for royal appointment to the Senate where the appointed senators will serve a four-year term. The senators can, among other things, join MPs in censuring a prime minister and unseating him in a no-confidence debate. It is a foregone conclusion that the NPKC chairman, retired Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, will fill the Senate with senior military officers, docile promilitary academics and bureaucrats, very much like the present National Assembly which has faithfully served as the NPKC's rubber stamp.

Moreover, the country has just discovered that the new Constitution also apparently gives the NPKC chairman the duty of countersigning the royal appointment of the new prime minister after the next general election. Earlier it was generally understood that the House Speaker would be the one who submits to His Majesty the King the name of a person chosen by the House of Representatives for the premiership.

Article 216 of the new Constitution says that Articles 18-23 of the Interim Constitution, which concern the powers of the NPKC, shall remain in effect "until after a new Cabinet takes office". But a closer look at these articles will show that they cannot be fully used in the post-election reality.

Article 19 empowers the NPKC to in conjunction with the Cabinet, "formulate national administrative policy which the Cabinet shall declare to the national assembly ..." But since the NPKC is to be dissolved when the new Cabinet takes office, it cannot join the Cabinet in setting national agenda for the new government.

Article 20 empowers the NPKC chairman, as well as the prime minister, to call a joint meeting between the NPKC and the Cabinet to discuss important national issues. This is also impossible as the NPKC chairmanship will cease to exist along with the NPKC.

Article 21 says the King appoints a prime minister as "recommended" by the NPKC chairman. This contradicts the spirit of the new Constitution which intends for the House of Representatives to nominate a new prime minister.

Article 22 says the King has the power to relieve a prime minister of his post when recommended by the NPKC chairman. This also contradicts the new Constitution which gives Parliament—not the NPKC chairman—the power to unseat a prime minister.

Finally, Article 23 says the NPKC chairman shall countersign any royal proclamation appointing a new prime minister and one relieving him of the post. Strictly speaking, the NPKC chairman would be in a position to countersign the royal proclamation, but he would be out of the NPKC chairmanship when the new Cabinet takes office. This article is internally flawed and therefore cannot be taken too literally.

Keeping these articles of the Interim Constitution in effect "until the new Cabinet takes office" is a careless oversight of the people revising the draft constitution. These articles, and, more precisely, all the powers of the NPKC, should cease to exist when the new Parliament opens its first meeting.

The present political tension and confusion can easily be dissipated if the NPKC chairman—who repeatedly claims he and his colleagues on the military council have no political ambition—simply clarifies that he would recommend for royal appointment as the new prime minister whomever is chosen by the House of Representatives.

Most of the political parties are wise enough not to back anyone who is unfriendly or unacceptable to the military.

Why is it then that the NPKC chairman apparently cannot see that the military doesn't really need a constitutional role in selecting the new prime minsiter to stay in power and protect its own vested interests?

Kaset: Military Ready To Intervene if Necessary

BK2712011691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Dec 91 p A1

[Text] Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday he expected the political situation to be stable after the election in March but repeated his warning that the military would have to "give a helping hand" if political turmoil erupts.

Kaset did not clarify what he meant by political turmoil or expand on what role the military would play.

The air force chief, who is also deputy chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC), said the political picture would become clearer when the results of the polls, scheduled for March 22, were known.

"After the polls we will be able to know how the political scheme of things will develop, who will be in the new government and who will be the next prime minister," he said.

He said the military would only monitor the political developments and the performance of the new government.

"Of course if serious problems arise, the Armed Forces would have to step in and help make things proceed orderly. I don't think political disorder and turmoil would be desired by all concerned, including the military and the general public," he said.

He said he expected a stable political situation next year because there would not be too many major political parties. The major players will be the New Aspiration Party of Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the Chat Thai Party of ACM Sombun Rahong, the Samakkhi Tham Party led by Narong Wongwan and the Democrat Party of Chuan Likphai, he said.

"From what I can see now, things should be all right," he said.

Kaset refused to comment on whether he thought the NPKC chairman or the House speaker would have the constitutional power to countersign the appointment of the next prime minister by His Majesty the King. He said that it was the duty of constitutional experts to rule on the different interpretations of the charter. Under the permanent section, the House speaker is specifically mentioned as the person to carry out the task but a provisional clause stipulates that the NPKC chairman will countersign the royal appointment. Another provisional clause stipulates that the NPKC will cease to exist when the new Cabinet starts its job, a process which follows the appointment of the prime minister.

But Kaset said that in practice, the NPKC chairman would consult other members of the military council and the House speaker.

Kaset: No Need for Election Watchdog Committee

BK2712012291 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] Vice-chairman ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin said the controversial proposal for setting up of an impartial election watchdog committee should not be raised anymore.

He said there had been volunteers, including students and the general public, to watch over previous elections.

If any election rigging is found in the next election, scheduled for March, the volunteers may file complaints with authorities, ACM Kaset said.

The Air Force chief said some "outsiders," and not Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, were behind the proposal to set up the watchdog committee. He said the matter should be handled by the Government, particularly the Interior Ministry.

He said the political situation in general is likely to be stable after the election because there are not many big political parties like New Aspiration, Chat Thai, Samakkhi Tham, and Democrat parties.

He said the armed services will continue to maintain public order during the term of the next government. (endall) 27 dec pmccormack/ps 27/0340z dec BT #3259 NNNN

NPKC's General Sunthon Interviewed 27 Dec

BK2812105891 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 28 Dec 91 pp 3, 22

["Special Interview" with Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council, by MATICHON on 27 December at Supreme Command Headquarters]

[Text] [MATICHON] Ever since the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] seized power on 23 February (...interrupted by Sunthon)

[Sunthon] It was not a power seizure but a change of government. (laughter)

[MATICHON] It has now been 11 months since that day, how do you view your role as NPKC chairman, are you satisfied with that role?

[Sunthon] I'm not sure if I can say whether I am satisfied or not. All of us have tried to perform our duties as best we could as far as the intentions or pledges that we made when we forged the change of government are concerned. We formed a new government and assigned it with the tasks and directions for national administration. Therefore, we cannot say whether or not we are satisfied because the government has been trying its best. You must ask the people, they can answer that, not me.

[MATICHON] Overall, do you feel that many issues have been shaping up well?

[Sunthon] The government has been trying its utmost to perform its job. Many areas of development have been achieved and many major problems have been resolved. It is evident that there has been no negative impact on the people, who have remained calm. Investment has not been affected, as many believed it would, because investment was already considerable before 23 February. Investment has declined a lot since then but it is not a zero investment.

One cause of the investment decline is the shortage of infrastructure development, such as communications, transport, water, and electricity systems. Investment has been delayed by such shortages. It is evident that the government has tried to tackle every area. The telephone problem has been partially resolved. The expressway system is being tackled. Therefore, it is evident that the government is determined to perform its job, and this satisfies us.

[MATICHON] It appears that the NPKC has been criticized for every problem that arises.

[Sunthon] It certainly has. We have had to exercise restraint. On certain issues, we became the target of unfair criticism, and it was not possible for us to explain the background. But we have tried to do all we could and made recommendations to the government on several issues, such as the national fertilizer project as we want farmers to have access to inexpensive, unadulterated fertilizer. The government has to accept some financial loss in the interests of farmers. We have also been working on relieving farmers' debts.

[MATICHON] The NPKC has had to take the blame even though some of its proposals were not carried out.

[Sunthon] We will let the goverment do the explanation on those issues. We will not interfere.

[MATICHON] The confiscation of assets is a measure by the NPKC aimed at dealing with corrupt officials. Do you personally feel uneasy when confiscation orders have been slapped on politicians and friends?

[Sunthon] I do. While we do not want them to be affected, the evidence about their corrupt activities is clear. We feel sorry for them because they are colleagues, from the prime minister downward. The former prime minister was someone we had respect for. We stated our intentions so we had to do it because the evidence against them was clear.

[MATICHON] Have you explained to these politicians when you have met them privately and did they understand?

[Sunthon] They claimed that some allegations could be cleared while some could not. That is what they said; I don't know what to say.

[MATICHON] Whose idea was it after the power takeover to issue the order No. 26 to freeze and confiscate assets?

[Sunthon] It belonged to the council. You must understand that we operate by consensus, not by ideas of individual council members. We must honor each other. It can not be that one proposes an idea but another disagrees. There must be unanimous decisionmaking. We risked our lives together so we must do things in the same direction.

[MATICHON] If politicians who have had their assets confiscated were to return to politics, people would feel that corruption will resume. If this happens, will there be another change of government?

[Sunthon] We cannot say what might happen. Regarding politicians who have been charged with corruption, they will probably have learned their lesson and will stop being corrupt.

[MATICHON] In the current situation, what do you think should be the character of the next prime minister that would contribute to national progress?

[Sunthon] First he must be honest, have good leadership qualities, and be accepted by the people. He must also be acceptable to foreign countries. Most importantly, he must be loyal to the monarchy.

[Text] [MATICHON] As far as the military is concerned, is the person with those qualifications hard to find?

[Sunthon] No, there are many Thai who have those qualifications, though it depends on whether or not they will present themselves.

[MATICHON] Are the leaders of political parties included among those with such qualifications?

[Sunthon] It is not necessary that they be leaders of a political party. I am just talking about the ideal people in my view.

[MATICHON] Must he be a member of parliament [MP]?

[Sunthon] The Constitution does not make that requirement. But if he is an MP his acceptance is already five on a scale of 10. That is, he is already accepted by the House of Representatives.

[MATICHON] Do you have a hunch that the next prime minister will be the leader of the political party which enjoys a majority in the House of Representatives, or do you think he will be someone outside of the political parties?

[Sunthon] I have no hunch at this time. Let's wait until after the election. We must be neutral, I can not lean one way or another.

Last week I was asked if I supported Chuan [Democrat Party leader] as prime minister. I said no, I do not support anyone at this time because I must be neutral. I have not even become involved with Gen. Chawalit, who was once my boss. If I became involved with the New Aspirations Party I would be criticized by other parties as being biased.

[MATICHON] Gen. Chawalit is your friend. How do you manage to be separated?

[Sunthon] He goes his way while I go mine. I can not make it look obvious to people.

[MATICHON] Do you find it difficult to conduct yourself when you have friends on one side and your junior colleages who risked their lives with you on 23 February on another, especially when they have problems understanding each other on such issues as the Constitution?

[Sunthon] I have to avoid involving myself with either side and speak as little as possible.

[MATICHON] Do you feel that with a frank and sincere character like yours people could find it difficult to handle you?

[Sunthon] It is my character, I must live with it. (laughter)

[MATICHON] It is good character.

[Sunthon] I usually do not worry about the actions that I have taken because I feel that I did not do it out of animosity toward anyone. I have only sincerity for others so I do not feel one way or another.

[MATICHON] The change of government without use of force is something new. What do you think should be the role of the military after the next election?

[Sunthon] We already try not to meddle in politics. But in time of crisis it is our duty to try to prevent it from further escalation. If you ask me whether there will be another coup, I can not answer that question. It would not be good if I say one thing and the opposite happens.

I also cannot say if the military will participate in the formation of a government after the election. What if the appointed prime minister wanted soldiers on the cabinet? Some soldiers could be placed in the cabinet to enhance stability because they provide a link with the military. Under such circumstances, it would be unavoidable, don't you think? Also, it would be impossible to hold that soldiers should not be involved in politics because many soldiers are appointed senators.

[MATICHON] Gen. Chawalit said it would avoid creating a vicious cycle if soldiers were barred from the political arena.

[Sunthon] I really don't understand how it would be vicious.

[MATICHON] It would lead to political confusion because soliers would feel they should become involved in politics in order to make bargains.

[Sunthon] In politics, political parties will conflict because their interests conflict, particularly in their competition to win seats in the house. Am I right? But there must be some common interests, so they compromise on one thing in order to gain something else. Political parties and politicians are that way.

[MATICHON] If someone who is acceptable to the military becomes defense minister, the new government will operate smoothly. Is this correct?

[Sunthon] There are many factors to consider. The defense minister is a politician. If he does not meddle with the armed forces and only provides support or a policy there will be no conflict. We do not want politicians to take away the authority of the supreme commander and the armed forces commanders in order to command and promote soldiers. This would only create confusion.

Sunthon: Military To Form Main Core of Senate

BK3012034191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Dec 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong insisted last night that the military must form the main core of the Senate membership because "we have shared the moment of life and death together."

Gen Sunthon, who was hosting a reception for National Legislative Assembly [NLA] members, told reporters, however, he still cannot tell how many military men will be appointed to the Senate.

"I can only say they will be considerably large in number," he said.

"They (military men) will have to be the main core of the Senate, whatever the criticism there will be."

He said representatives of other professions, including some Cabinet ministers and present NLA members, will also be appointed to sit in the Upper House.

However, he has yet to confer with the Armed Forces commanders to discuss the issue in detail.

The former supreme commander expressed strong dissatisfaction over reported allegations that some hopefuls have been trying to buy their way into the Senate.

"This makes me feel very angry. When people say money is spent to buy the senator posts, it only means that money is paid to me," Gen Sunthon said.

He said that if the allegation persists problems will occur and he may be forced to unilaterally appoint the Senate members without consulting anybody.

"Anyone wishing to become a Senate member can propose his name to me. But if there continue to be claims that I am paid this and that, there certainly will be problems," Gen Sunthon said.

Air Force Chief Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday that Gen Sunthon is expected to call a meeting of the NPKC to formulate a policy for appointing senators.

The NPKC deputy chairman, however, did not say when the meeting will take place.

Under the provisional clause of the Constitution, the NPKC chairman is to apoint 270 senators on election day.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal) Kaset said he believed one of the criteria for selecting senators will be that they must be resourceful and capable and represent a cross-section of society.

Asked why the military always commands most seats in the Senate, ACM Kaset said whether or not this pattern will be followed depends on the NPKC chairman.

"I believe he will pick them from various occupational branches. In fact, governemnt officials from all ministries are usually appinted to the Senate."

The Air Force chief said he wants one half of the senators to be permanent government officials and the other half from people of other occupations.

Asked to comment on a report that a large number of people have been trying to buy their way into the Senate, ACM Kaset said he did not think this has happened, adding the Senate has always comprised people who are truly capable.

Gen Sunthon was quoted in a news report as saying last Friday that about a thousand people have approached him to lobby for senatorial posts and he had their names in his pocket.

On the election watchdog commission proposed by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, ACM Kaset said there should be a law for its establishment.

Since the Government must be responsible for the performance of the commission, it is the Prime Minister and Interior Minister's responsibility to work out how much power it should be given, he said.

On his suggestion that the next government should comprise four political parties, Chat Thai, Samakkhi Tham, New Aspiration and Democrat, ACM Kaset said it is only his personal opinion and he has never discussed this with the leaders of the four parties.

"I made this suggestion because I want to see a stable government. However, whether or not these parties will form a coalition depends on their leaders," he said.

Meanwhile, Social Action Party [SAP] leader Montri Phongphanit said nobody can predict which party will make up the core of the next government until the election results are known.

He said the SAP will announce its candidates on January 15.

"We will field our candidates in about 50 provinces and are confident of winning at least 54 seats, the same number as in the last election."

Columnist Views Chaloem's Homecoming Reception

BK2912023091 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Dec 91 p B3

[Column by Sophon Onkghara entitled: "Day of Infamy in Our Politics"]

[Text] When people not familiar with Thai politics observed the manner Gen Suthon Khongsomphong extended an obviously heartfelt welcome to Chaloem Yubamrung with a bear hug, broad smile and kind words, they must have thought that the lanky retired army officer was reuniting with a long lost brother.

To the politically gullible, they would be tempted to draw an easy conclusion that the smiles were as sincere and genuine as humans could ever express. It was like an eternal friendship being struck between two honorable men.

For those who have seen enough of local politics, it was more than just social niceties. To Chaloem, the disgraced politician returning from a 10-month exile in Denmark, the homecoming party at Sunthon's large and expensive residence on Sukhumwit Road was no less than a red-carpet treatment on a smaller scale.

Chaloem is here to defend himself after the Sit Assets Investigation Committee ruled that part of his wealth had been acquired through questionable means. To be more to the point, the fiery politician is branded as a crook by the committee.

If the Muanchon Party leader was worried by the accusation, he did not show it during a hush-hush dinner with Sunthon. The greeting, back patting, shoulder slapping, the chummy chitchats about the good old days were thus beyond the imagination of Chaloem who had been prepared just in case for the worst.

That's why the ex-cop, ex-MP, and ex-Cabinet member, could not help but exclaim in disbelief in his good fortune. With tear-brimming eyes Chaloem heaped thanks and praises on the graceful host for practically giving him a new lease of life. Whether it was conditional or otherwise, only the two themselves would be able to answer.

And indeed it was so, with far reaching implications. Sunthon, the leader of the National Peacekeeping Council, seized the occasion to display his generosity and gentlemenly conduct of an old soldier to the young and brash politician, whose combative personality and predatory style of do-or-die battles with military figures last year were awed by even the most jaded of all political prize fighters.

In was Chaloem's tenacity in exchanging barbs with Sunthon last year which for a while heightened the simmering political tension between the Chatchai administration and the military. Their verbal battles had made everybody believe that a compromise was next to impossible.

But to everyone's surprise, it wasn't so, just hours after Chaloem's arrival at Don Muang Airport. Another monumental aspect of the encounter on that day was that the two were the parties to a hatchet-burial ceremony signifying a new term of endearment of sorts. They even linked arms in a toast as if to wash down their throats the last traces of bitterness in their mouths. Let's hope that the expensive liquor wouldn't turn foul in their gut.

This seemingly unthinkable act of amity manifested itself in less than a year for the full view of the public. As we all know, Sunthon, the figurehead of the junta, led the February 23 coup which forced Chaloem to go into hiding, followed by an odyssey at sea until he acquired refugee status and was granted asylum in Denmark.

For political observers who have been closely monitoring the behaviours of these two men and who later learned about the event, would not know whether to laugh or cry. The public was not angered by the renewed friendship. In Thai politics, anything is possible, particularly an about-face—when foes become friends or vice versa in a matter of days. For Sunthon and Chaloem, their reconciliation was due to come sometime anyway. But the only element of surprise, if there was any, was that it happened so soon.

The irony was total. The exchange of complimentary utterances was a stark contrast to what frequently occurred in 1989 when they fiercely locked horns on politically explosive issues. For the two, their hatred was mutual judging from their verbal duels.

But the hands they extended to embrace each other on December 24, were the same ones they once directed at each other's throat.

That was not all, Sunthon further kept his hands busy when he put on an apron, went into the kitchen, and again demonstrated his culinary expertise. The retired supreme commander prepared one of his favourite dishes, rice topped with chicken in sweet gravy, and few other palatable items for Chaloem who had not tasted real Thai cooking for several months.

Who knows? Chaloem and other guests would have been far more impressed had Sunthon presented what are usually listed on the menu of a well-known and expensive Thai restaurant in Paris, Le Poete Ivre, where the junta leader has always made it point to visit whenever he was in France.

Chaloem has not yet been labelled publicly as a man who bit the hands that fed him. During the previous administration, the politically loose "cannon-mouth" showed his solid loyalty to his only boss, ousted prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan. Chatchai counted on Chaloem to blast out several potential adversaries whom he perceived as threats to him. Their mutual trust lasted until the final minutes when the coup toppled the Chatchai government.

In his heyday, Chaloem was regarded as Chatchai's henchman who effectively dealt with the politicians as well as military figures. With venomous portent emanating from his mouth, some of Chaloem's victims came close to writing their own political obituaries.

At Sunthon's dinner party, the atmosphere was different. Chaloem, with his boyish grin, became surprisingly tamed and charmed by his host's forgive-and-forget gesture. Such repentance was alien to the nature of a man long known for tough talks and the nerve to rub a wrong shoulder. An air of arrogance, the hallmark of his pressure-cooker politics, was no longer there. A lingering doubt is whether he has been defanged, and now intends to become a hand at the stable of the junta chief to avoid a political demise.

I won't rule out such possibility. Sunthon gave the politician a benevolent advice—lie low for a moment before the next foray into the political arena. What more would Chaloem want? Standing among supporters, including Buddhist monks, he wasted no time in letting out a brief harangue that he would certainly run in the next election.

As spectators to the renewed truce, we must not get carried away by the camaraderie exchanged at the dinner party. On the contrary, we cannot forget that it was Chaloem's style of firebrand politics which had been used, partly though, as a lame excuse by the rag-tag junta in its senseless destruction of our budding democracy—for nothing better.

If Sunthon and his fellow junta members have decided to forgive Chaloem and other scandal-tainted politicians for whatever reason best known to themselves, that's their privilege. But should this country forgive them as well for what they had done? We still have to bear till today the consequences of their actions. As the saying goes, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all of the time. Anyway, I would like to wish them both a Happy New Year, with a toast to the unleashing of the "cannon-mouth" in 1992.

Vietnam

Oil Concessions for U.S. Companies Viewed

BK2812072091 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 28—A Heavy Industry Ministry official has been quoted as saying that Vietnam is prepared to keep open oil concessions for U.S. firms if new legislations allows them to sign contracts. But they have missed out on a partnership to exploit the country's biggest field because of a trade embargo, the official added.

Nguyen Xuan Chuan director of the ministry's International Cooperation Department, told REUTERS that because of the embargo, U.S. companies had missed the opportunity to join Vietsovpetro—a Vietnamese-Soviet joint venture—in exploiting Dai Hung Vietnam's largest oilfield off the southern coast.

More than 10 foreign companies had submitted bids to exploit the field and the bids would be finalised by the end of March, Chuan said, adding his ministry's report would be submitted to Premier Vo Van Kiet who would announce the contract winner about two weeks later.

Chuan said that because of the state of the Vietnamese economy, Vietnam could not delay the decision any longer.

"We cannot wait for the American companies until the lifting of the U.S. embargo. So I think for Dai Hung it is a lost case for U.S. companies," he said.

He said the American Chamber of Commerce delegation had asked that a clause be inserted into the production-sharing contract for Dai Hung guaranteeing that the winning company would accept U.S. firms in partnership in future.

"But we refused them, because it was inappropriate from a legal point of view. It is up to the company to accept the U.S. company or not", he said.

American companies would however be able to bid for five other oil blocks which had been surrendered by Vietsovpetro.

"If they are able to sign contracts and we receive a gesture of serious intent, then we would take this matter into consideration and could readjust the schedule," he said.

"There is no fixed schedule, if the American companies come here willing to prolong the schedule," he said.

He said several U.S. oil companies had been interested in helping exploit Dai Hung, including Mobil.

Ex-Foreign Minister Optimistic on Regional Peace

BK3012015691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 91 p A8

[Interview with former Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach by THE NATION correspondent Kawi Chongkitthawon in Hanoi; date not given]

[Text] Hanoi—In his retirement former Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has mellowed down noticeably, but he is as witty as usual.

Unlike in the past, he is now optimistic that economic cooperation within the Southeast Asian region will ensure stability and peace. He stresses that no country in the region wants to engage in any new conflict, but all want to work for economic prosperity.

Thach talks less about political issues. He is more interested in economic issues affecting Vietnamese economy.

Thach says he is still active in international relations and writes on political and economic matters. He is scheduled to go abroad early next year to attend two seminars: one in Kuala Lumpur next month organized by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies and the other in Singapore by Time magazine later on.

On Thai army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's request to visit the Cam Ranh Bay:

Such base visit should be reciprocal. You would like to see our bases. We would like to see yours too. Both sides should be open to each other as part of the confidence-building measures.

On how to improve Thai-Vietnamese relations:

Now we are on our own. Vietnam and Thailand can have a good relationship on their own, step by step, to build up solid ties. At the moment, the two countries do not have full confidence in their ties. This will take time. Appetite comes while (we are) eating.

On Thach's role as foreign minister:

Since 1987, I was working for a total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia; amending the (Vietnamese) constitution's preamble for better relations with China, France, Unites States and ASEAN countries as well as for normalizing relations with all other countries in the world. This foreign policy is bearing fruit step by step.

The present foreign policy is the continuation of the Vietnamese policy defined by the Sixth Congress of the Vietnam Communist Party in December 1986.

On the Cambodian settlement:

There is no better choice: a compromise for a Cambodia that is neutral and independent without any foreign intervention is much better than the continuation of war in Cambodia.

Japan's role in Indochina:

If Indochina won the war against Japan (during the Japanese occupation in World War II) then we would not need the Japanese help. Now it is different. Japan has shown interest in Indochina.

However we must not aim high, we must rely on ourselves. We cannot have the attitude that without the help of one country we would die.

On Indochina and ASEAN ties:

The confrontation between the two opposing blocs in Southeast Asia is ending. Now is the beginning of a new era of regional cooperation. It is a positive move for Vietnam to adopt the (ASEAN'S) Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

On Vietnam's economic priorities:

First is to stop inflation. Vietnam must continue to improve its economic management, technological knowhow and the standard of living of the people.

The inflation rate must be reduced to single-digit rate; the current double-digit inflation of 50 per cent cannot induce investment from Vietnamese, who would rather keep their wealth in the form of gold.

Vietnam must also continue to improve its infrastructure and revise its laws to attract more foreign investment.

On China' and Vietnam's communism:

Both countries use chopsticks but their cooking is different. It does not mean they eat the same dish or use the same spices. There are some areas that are the same and some areas that are different.

China, which began its economic reform in 1978, does not have a one-price system. Vietnam has been successful in eliminating two-price system while other countries could not.

Singapore's senior minister (Lee Kuan Yew) is a good manager of the city state's economy. Singapore does not have an agricultural economy, whereas 60 per cent of Vietnam's output is agricultural production. Lee's experience on industrial management is very good. For example, Singapore Airlines is the world's best managed airline firm.

Well, nobody is good for everything, everywhere.

Statehood of Former USSR Republics Recognized

BK2812150991 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 28—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam yesterday sent messages to his counterparts in Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazahkstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia and Turkemenistan to inform them that the Government of Vietnam recognizes those countries and is ready to establish diplomatic relations with them.

Last Draft of Revised Constitution Published

BK3012073591 Hanoi VNA in English 0542 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 30—All the dailies here today carry in full the draft revised Constitution adopted at the recent Eighth Session of the Tenth National Assembly. This is the third draft of the revision of the 1980 Constitution.

In a relevant editorial NHAN DAN says:

So far, Vietnam has had three constitutions promulgated respectively in 1946, 1959 and 1980.

The 1980 Constitution institutionalised the line worked out by the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam; the past ten years has witnessed many important changes at home and abroad. Therefore, the preamble and the contents of some chapters and articles of this Constitution are no longer appropriate. After three revisions according to the resolutions of the National Assembly, on June 30, 1989 the National Assembly adopted a resolution to set up the Constitution Revision Committee to undertake a radical and comprehensive revision to meet the demands of renovation.

After 14 plenary sessions, in May 1991, the Constitution Revision Committee held a nationwide consultation with high and medium ranking cadres throughout the country about the first draft. Basing itself on their opinions, the committee made some changes and submitted the second draft to the National Assembly at its session from July 27 to August 12, 1991.

On the basis of the comments by National Assembly deputies and the decisions and orientations on the revision of the Constitution issued by the party Central Committee, the Constitution Revision Committee has amended the second draft and now submits the third draft to public comments.

The revised Constitution reflects our state's nature as a state of the people, by the people and for the people; based on the alliance of the working class, the peasantry, and the intellectuals; and led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. It institutionalises the socialist democracy, defines the citizens' rights and obligations and the human rights which must be respected and protected by law. The revised Constitution affirms the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam toward the state and the entire society. That role and responsibility is assigned by history, is accepted by the people and recognized by the Constitution. The party's leadership ensures and upholds the role and efficiency of state management; the stronger and more effective the state apparatus becomes, the more the party's leadership is consolidated and upheld. The Constitution reflects in all domains the mechanism in which the people are the master, the state is the manager, and the party is the leader.

After it has received wide comments from the entire population the draft will be revised for the last time before being submitted to the National Assembly for approval in March 1992.

Progress of Investment Projects Reported

BK3012074791 Hanoi VNA in English 0550 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 30—More than 500 foreign investors and Vietnamese partners have taken part in discussions of progress in the conduct of investment projects licensed since promulgation of a Law on Foreign Investment in early 1988.

The discussions were held in three seminars organised in Hanoi, at the seaside resort town of Nha Trang, and at the chief town of Can Tho Province during the week beginning December 12.

The general view was that deployment of most of the projects had progressed well. Yet, many participants held that things could have been much better had the government made timely adjustments in personnel work, employment regulations, the purchase of equipment, quality control and pricing, [word indistinct], capital construction and other relevant procedures.

Many argued that for greater outlets inside and outside the country, export taxes on products by joint ventures should be reduced a bit and exemption duration should be aplied on a case-by-case basis given the fact that not all joint ventures can run profitably during the first several years.

Some investors said Vietnamese existing accounting and banking practices remained different from international practices, which to some extent cause no small difficulty to joint-venture operations.

The state committee for foreign cooperation and investment has so far licenced 350 projects involoving a combined capital of more than USD 2.5 billion.

Foreign Investment Figures for 1991 Cited

BK2812073691 Hanoi VNA in English 0603 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 28—Together with food, oil and electricity production, foreign investment is one of Vietnam's most successful economic operations in 1991. In the first ten months of 1991, 114 joint investment projects were signed with foreign companies capitalized at more than U.S.$1.27 billion. This compared to 37 projects capitalized at U.S.$360 million in 1988, the first year after the foreign investment law saw the light.

Attracting most foreign capital have been industrial production, tourism, services, agriculture, forestry, fishery, oil and gas, coal and minerals, posts and telecommunications. Among the 12 foreign invested projects licenced in September this year, six are industrial projects capitalized at U.S.$92.6 million, one deals with oil and gas development capitalized at U.S.$65 million and three deal with tourism capitalized at U.S.$36 million.

In October, licences were issued for 11 more projects, including one coal mining projects in Quang Ninh, one gemstone mining and processing projects in the northern mountain province of Yen Bai jointly undertaken by the Yen Bai geological service, the Vietnam National Gem Company and B.H. Mining Co. Ltd. of Thailand.

So far, among the more than 300 licenced projects capitalized at U.S.$2.5 billion, 12 are on oil and gas development valued at U.S.$523 million. Next comes tourism with 73 projects valued at U.S.$600 million. It is reckoned that tourist arrivals will increase to 1.6 million by the year 2000 from 18,000 in 1990.

Growing interest has been shown for the agricultural sector, especially the production and processing of food for export. Modest as they are in the size of investment, the agricultural projects are providing jobs for large numbers of the surplus labour force in the countryside. The project on growing mushrooms for export in the Mekong River delta province of Hau Giang, for instance, has created jobs for 20,000 peasant households.

Most of the projects licensed so far have an investment capital ranging from a few to several dozen millions U.S. dollar. For instance, the Minh Hai Seafoods Joint Venture with Thailand: U.S.$1.8 million, the Uong Bi Coal Mining Joint Venture with Indonesia: U.S.$27 million, the Tan Thuan Export Processing Enterprise: U.S.$89 million, etc.

So far, the biggest projects is the Thach Khe iron mining projects in the central Vietnam Province of Ha Tinh with an investment capital of more than U.S.$600 million.

Vietnam's share varies for each project. For instance, it contributes only 30 percent of capital to the Tan Thuan joint venture 40 percent to the gemstone mining and processing project and 46.5 percent to the sericultural joint venture with a company of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Dozens of joint enterprises have become operational and brought tangible results. A fruit processing factory in the Mekong River delta province of Kien Giang capitalized at U.S.$2.7 million has brought back to life a vast pineapple growing area producing 200-300 thousand tons of pineapple per year, raising the income of tens of thousands of labourers by threefold. The factory has been completed as planned and it hopes to redeem capital within only 30 months instead of 42 months as planned.

Australia

Spokesman: Indonesia Reacts Positively to Inquiry

BK3012070491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] Australia has given an initial positive response to Indonesia's reaction to a special enquiry into last months's East Timor massacre. A spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans says from the limited reports so far, Indonesia's response to the inquiry into the massacre appears to be positive and helpful.

The Indonesian military is to establish a special council to study the actions of the local command in East Timor during the massacre and President Suharto has also ordered the removal of two generals from their posts in connection with the incident. They are Major General Sintong Panjaitan, the commander of the military region which includes East Timor and Brigadier General Rudolf Warouw, the operational commander in the province.

Radio Australia's Canberra office says the Australian Government is still waiting for further detailed information on Indonesia's reactions.

New Zealand

Government Recognizes Russia as Soviet Successor

BK2912064091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0629 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] Wellington, Dec 29 (AFP)—The New Zealand Government said Sunday it acknowledged the Russian Federation as the successor to the former Soviet Union.

"The Russian Federation is much the largest, most powerful, populous and resource-rich of the republics of the former Soviet Union so there is a clear logic in this," Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said in a statement.

McKinnon noted that a number of other countries were now moving to recognise the Russian Federation or, as in the case of the European Community, to acknowledge it as the "continuing state" exercising the rights and obligations of the former Soviet Union.

The former Soviet Embassy in Wellington has told the government that it now represents the Russian Federation.

McKinnon said the question of formal recognition of the Russian Federation was "not pressing".

Papua New Guinea

Rebel Leader Says Premier Giving 'False' Hopes

BK3012064691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 91

[Text] One of the leaders of the secessionist movement on Bougainville, Francis Ona, says Papua New Guinea's [PNG] Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has raised false expectations over hopes for peace on the island. Mr. Ona was referring to a recent statement made by the prime minister in which he said a solution to the Bougainville crisis was now almost in sight.

The secessionist leader said he wondered how Mr. Namaliu could make such a statement when he could not even control the activities of his own security forces in Rabaul and on Buka Island. He said that while the Namaliu government was saying one thing its military forces were doing the opposite. Mr. Ona claimed that the PNG's security forces were preventing all international humanitarian assistance from reaching the people of Bougainville.